THE

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Mrs. Sophia Baddeley,

LATE OF DRURY LANE THEATRE.

BY

MRS. ELIZABETH STEELE.

IN SIX VOLUMES.

VOL. III.

LONDON:
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M.DCC.LXXXVII.

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WE now began to think of the maſquerade; and we ſettled it that Mrs. Baddeley ſhould go in the character of Juliet, and I in that of the Nurſe. Her dreſs made up upon this occaſion, was a rich white ſattin, beautifully pucker'd with a veil of fine gauze, trimmed all round with a broad rich point-lace,

which had a pretty effect. Upon the whole it was ſo elegant, that I can venture to ſay, ſo beautiful a Juliet, was never before ſeen. I had a full pink ſattin petticoat, trimmed with a deep point, a black ſilk gown tied back, and large pinners of old point-lace on my head, quite in character. The point I borrowed, through the favour of Mr. Garrick. Before we entered the Ball-room, I begged the favour of Mrs. Baddeley not to unmaſk, and for ſome time ſhe obliged me. Our dreſſes were much admired, but no ſooner had ſhe her maſk off, than ſhe attracted the attention of the whole room; even the ladies that night, could not help ſaying many things in her praiſe. I never took

off

off my maſk, but it was ſufficiently known who I was, being in company with her. This was a ball given by a ſubſcription of the nobility; it was ſplendid and ſuperb to the utmoſt; and the attention univerſally ſhewn us by men of the firſt rank, in bringing us refreſhments, &c. was exceedingly flattering, but abſolutely troubleſome. At this maſquerade none were admitted but by tickets, given away privately by the ſubſcribers. Every perſon almoſt of rank and fortune then in town was preſent, and as all vied with each other, in ſplendor of dreſs, it was the moſt brilliant aſſembly of the kind that ever was ſeen. The conſequence of Mrs. Baddeley being at the maſquerade, was,

that the next day, our knocker was going from morning till evening; but as we gave orders to be denied to all, we had only their names to read. Among the many that called to pay their reſpects were, the Dukes of Northumberland, Ancaſter, and Queenſberry; Lords Hartington, Lincoln, Clanbrazil, Winchelſea, Falmouth, Pigot; Mr. R. Conway, &c. and the news-papers did not omit to mention many others.

Having been engaged to dine this day with Mr. Caſwell; and Mrs. Baddeley having, or affecting to have, a ſick head-ach, I was obliged to apologize, and excuſe ourſelves. I ſay *affecting to have*, for Doctor Eliot, who attended

her

her that morning, adviſed her, as ſhe ſaid, to take an airing, and I believe ſhe pretended to be un-well, in order to keep an appointment ſhe had made with Mr. Storer the night before, at the maſquerade, whilſt I was dancing with Mr. Conway; for, when we entered Hyde-Park, Mr. Storer came up to the coach on foot, ſaying, he had been rambling in the air all the morning. She aſked him into the carriage, and he came in, rode once or twice round the Park with us, and on our return home, we ſet him down in Piccadilly.

Mrs. Baddeley never omitted to go to every public place of reſort, frequented by the nobility and people of

faſhion, and her admiſſion was never oppoſed but once, of which I will give my reader the particulars.

When the Pantheon was firſt opened with concerts, &c. the proprietors wiſhed to exclude every perſon, but thoſe of rank and fortune; and by no means to admit any women of ſlight character, or any of the players. Mrs. Baddeley being then on the ſtage, and of ſome conſequence among them; ſhe was with ſome others, pointed out as an improper perſon to be admitted. This getting to the ears of Mr. William Hanger, Mr. R. Conway, and ſome few more of her friends, they met at Almack's on the occaſion, and twenty

of the nobility agreed to attend at the Pantheon, at the door she designed to enter at, determining that nothing should prevent her admittance. They accordingly requested of us to go the first evening it was opened, in chairs; for as an extra number of constables were ordered to attend, and as chairs were admitted under the Portico, it would be better in case of a riot, than to expose our carriage and horses to the insolence of a mob. I was to get out of my chair first, and Mrs. Baddeley was to follow. When we reached the place, I believe there were fifty gentlemen in waiting, ready to protect us; with swords by their sides: and when I got out, I passed the constables uninterrupted, but

as ſoon as Mrs. Baddeley got out of her chair, all the conſtables ſtaves were croſſed; and, pulling of their hats, they with their civility, ſaid, their orders were to admit no players. At this inſtant, every gentleman there preſent, the greateſt part of whom were noblemen, drew their ſwords, and declared one and all, that if they did not inſtantly make way, and let her paſs, they would run them through. Way was immediately made, and Mrs. Baddeley and I were handed in, without any interruption. But the matter ended not here, for the gentlemen would not ſheath their ſwords, nor ſuffer the muſic to play, till the managers came to aſk Mrs. Baddeley's pardon, for the inſult

ſhewn

ſhewn her. The ladies then began to enquire into the cauſe of this diſturbance, and the Ducheſs of Argyle, now Ducheſs of Hamilton came forward, and was pleaſed to ſay, ſhe was much ſurprized at ſo groſs an inſult being offered to Mrs. Baddeley, who was an ornament to any place, ſhe was ſeen in; and it gave her a particular pleaſure to ſee her in public at all times. Lady Hertford joined in the ſame opinion. At laſt the managers were glad to make their appearance, and not only aſk Mrs. Baddeley's pardon, but the pardon of all the gentlemen who ſtood forth in her behalf, and received a ſevere reprimand for their conduct. So that the ladies of the Theatres, and many others,

have

have to thank Mrs. Baddeley for their preſent admiſſion. Mrs. Baddeley, with a becoming modeſty, returned her grateful thanks to thoſe ladies of faſhion, who politely chaſtized the managers for their behaviour, then wiſhing to apologize for the orders they had given, but they were not ſuffered to ſay a word in their defence. Mrs. Abington, (who waited the event of Mrs. Baddeley's reception, and to whom we immediately ſent an account of what had happened), preſently made her appearance, and the evening was no longer interrupted.

Lord Melbourne coming to acquaint us that he ſhould leave town the next day, for a week; deſired Mrs. Baddeley would

would get well in his abſence, and told me, on his return he would look into ſome accounts I mentioned to him. Mrs. Baddeley was not a little pleaſed he was going, as ſhe called ſuch times her holidays; and as ſoon as he was gone, ſhe cried, "Now the devil take the doctors! "I'll not ſee one of them, but go and "ſee Hampton-Court, and Windſor; "which I have not ſeen for ſome years; "and I will take as much pleaſure, as "the week will afford." Of courſe, we ordered the coach and four, and the next morning at ten ſet off for Hampton. But, before we went, ſhe contrived to let Captain Fawkner know, that ſhe would call at Richmond; for when we came to Kew-bridge, ſhe ſaid,

ſhe

ſhe longed for ſome maids of honour at Richmond, (which were cheeſe-cakes, there ſold under that name,) "It is "not much out of our way, do let's "go?" We went, and who ſhould we ſee at the Paſtry-cook's, but the Captain; which ſhe declared to me was accidental: but I did not believe it, as one of our maids, had ſet off that morning at ſix o'clock; under the idea of a holiday; and I am firmly convinced, ſhe was diſpatched to him. We ſtaid and dined at the Caſtle, and being obliged to write back to town, for ſomething I had forgot, Captain Fawkner and Mrs. Baddeley walked into the garden; which I was ſorry for afterwards. We continued all night, and Mrs. Baddeley ſlept with

with me. Next morning Captain Fawkner breakfasted with us, and after breakfast we pursued our journey alone, to Hampton-court; and thence to Windsor, where we dined. Before dinner we went to see the Castle, and on entering it, a young gentleman accosted us, whose name was Captain Pigot; he begged to escort Mrs. Baddeley through the apartments. This gentleman accompanied us to the inn, and left us. Having enquired of our people, whether we had any company; and finding us alone, he sent his compliments, and begged the favour, we would admit him to dine with us. Mrs. Baddeley said, "Let him; he is a civil young man; "I know he is a relation of Lord Pigot's."

I conſented, and we ſent him word, we ſhould be happy in his company. He was a man of very engaging manners, was very warm in his praiſes of Mrs. Baddeley, and ſaid, he ſhould bleſs the hour he was ſo fortunate as to be at the Caſtle, and record it, as the happieſt of his life. It being too late to think of returning to town, we ordered a bed, and determined to ſtay all night. Cards were propoſed, but as there were but three, I recollected having an old ſchool-fellow married in this town, whom I propoſed to invite, to make up a party at whiſt; Captain Pigot offered to wait on her, with our compliments; we conſented, and he brought her to us; ſhe ſtaid ſup-

per,

per, and invited us to breakfaſt the next morning, and Captain Pigot alſo. This lady and her huſband, Mr. Herbert, lived on their fortune, in an elegant ſtile, and very politely received and entertained both us and our horſes; which they inſiſted ſhould be brought from the inn, having prevailed on us to ſtay a day or two with them. The Captain was each day of the party. The next morning we went for an airing to Salt-hill, where we met Mr. Damer, and a party of his friends. On our return, Mr. Herbert having invited ſome neighbours, muſically inclined, we had a concert; and Mrs. Baddeley's ſinging was a treat to them. We ſtaid at Mr. Herbert's two days, and on our

taking leave of him, gave him and his lady an invitation to London, which they promiſed to accept the firſt opportunity.

Before we had got two miles from Windſor, in our way to town, Captain Pigot overtook us, ſaid he was going to London, and begged to accompany us, which we declined, under a pretence of not going there that day, intending to ſpend the evening with a friend upon the road; but, told him, we ſhould be happy to ſee him in town. Our carriage and livery being ſo well known by our friends, we ſeldom went any where, but we were accoſted by ſome one or other. In our way on, at Colnbrook, as we

ſtopped

ſtopped to water our horſes, a Mr. St. Alban, a young gentleman, whom Mrs. Baddeley knew, when ſhe lived with her father, aſked her how ſhe did: ſhe ſeemed happy to renew her old acquaintance, and on his aſking us to alight and take ſome refreſhment, we conſented. This young man was going to Oxford; and ſaying, he ſhould ſtop at Henley to dine, Mrs. Baddeley aſked him if it was a pleaſant place, and how he meant to go? He replied, it was a delightful place, and he was going to hire a chaiſe to carry him. Now as Henley was but eighteen miles from Colnbrook, ſhe ſaid, as ſhe was out upon a frolick, if it was agreeable to me, ſhe

would accompany him there, and ſave him the expence of a chaiſe. Mr. St. Alban was much delighted with this, and urging me not to oppoſe, I agreed to go. We went there and dined, and after dinner, going to ſee a grotto, in Lady Ayleſbury's garden, ſaid to be the workmanſhip of her own hands; on our return, we met with Mr. John Hanger, then down on a viſit to his father. He had heard of our being at the Red Lion at Henley, and came purpoſely to ſee Mrs. Baddeley, who received him very cooly. He addreſſed himſelf to Mr. St. Alban, who was a ſtranger to him, and begged leave to dine with us. The young gentleman did not know what to ſay upon the occaſion,

caſion, but replied, "With great plea-
"ſure, if it is agreeable to the la-
"dies." Indeed it was far from being agreeable to me, though I ſaid nothing; and Mrs. Baddeley did not ſeem to like it, though ſhe did not oppoſe it. He dined with us, and ſeemed to envy Mr. St. Alban, to whom Mrs. Baddeley paid great attention, in order to mortify Mr. Hanger. When dinner was over, Mr. Hanger requeſted leave to aſk me a queſtion alone. I laughed, and ſaid, as I had no ſecrets, he might aſk the queſtion in company. I was perſwaded it was only to aſk me, who Mr. St. Alban was, and therefore I would not gratify him. He then took out his pencil, and wrote, "Who is this gentleman," on a

piece

piece of paper; on which I replyed, with the uſe of the ſame pencil, "A man "of great fortune, whom Mrs. Baddeley "is very fond of." On reading this, he threw it into the fire, and ſlapped his head, ſaying, it ached very much. Mrs. Baddeley ſmiled, and looked at me. The gentleman, I believe, thought him a little out of his mind, and ſtared at him much. At this, Mrs. Baddeley moved, and drew her chair nearer to her friend. Mr. Hanger, who could bear this no longer, flew forward, and ſat down near her, and ſaid, if his life was at ſtake, he muſt tell that gentleman, that his love and affection for Mrs. Baddeley, had a right to her attention, and he could not ſuffer himſelf

to

to be thus treated. The young gentleman ſeemed thunder-ſtruck. But Mrs. Baddeley winking at him, and he conceiving Mr. Hanger was out of his mind, and taking this wink as a confirmation of the fact, got up and handed him a glaſs of water, with "Pleaſe "to drink this, Sir, it will do you "good." "No, Sir," retorts he, angrily, "I ſhall not drink it, I am not "accuſtomed to water. It is you that "makes me wretched." "Me, Sir?" ſaid the young gentleman, "On what "account?" "Becauſe," replied he, "Mrs. Baddeley ſhews ſo much atten-"tion to you, and ſo little to me." We laughed immoderately, and Mr. St. Alban returned, that he was certainly happy

py in Mrs. Baddeley's notice, whom he had known from her childhood; and had he an empire to give, he would lay it at her feet. This made Mr. Hanger almoſt diſtracted. Mrs. Baddeley told him, ſhe bluſhed for him, and was quite aſhamed for his behaviour, and requeſted he would not offend a gentleman, whom ſhe conſidered as her friend, and for whom ſhe had the higheſt eſteem. "O God!" ſays he, "my dear Baddeley, ſay no more of that, I ſhall "go diſtracted!" On this, Mrs. Baddeley became more ſerious, and thus addreſſed him. "Mr. Hanger, how "can you make yourſelf ſo ridiculous? "Have you not, by your cruel con"duct, brought on me more trouble

"than

"than ever I had in my life? Is it "your ſtudy to make my life wretched? "If it is, you ſhall find yourſelf diſap- "pointed." To this Mr. St. Alban ſaid, with a becoming ſpirit, "Sir, if "you do not immediately deſiſt from a "converſation that I find gives Mrs. "Baddeley pain, you muſt anſwer it "to *me*, for I am determined to protect "her;" and, then turning to Mrs. Baddeley, ſaid, "Mind him not, my "dear angel, you have nothing to fear "whilſt I am preſent." Mr. Hanger then went to the other part of the room, and pretended to weep; convinced it was the only way to affect her, whom he wiſhed to affect; but, ſhe took no notice of it. Mr. St. Alban then took

Mrs.

Mrs. Baddeley by the hand, and ſhe apologized to him for the trouble ſhe had occaſioned, ſaying, it was an unhappineſs to her, to think ſhe had been the means of bringing a perſon into his company, that had made ſo much diſturbance. He replied, "My dear ma-" "dam, the happineſs of being with" "you, compenſates for every thing; nor" "do I regard any attempts to interrupt" "it." "Sir," ſays Mr. Hanger, glowing with anger, "I am of the ſame" "opinion, and we will then ſee who is" "to be the happy man immediately." I thought it now neceſſary to interfere, and taking hold of Mr. St. Alban, told him, that Mr. Hanger was, at times, a mad-man, and that he was now in one

of

of his mad fits, and begged him not to take any notice of his conduct, for that the fit would ſoon be over, and all would be well. "I thought, indeed," ſaid Mr. St. Alban, "from the firſt, that "he was out of his mind, and as ſuch, "it will be beſt to get him away, or go "away ourſelves." Thinking it beſt to go ourſelves, I propoſed it to Mrs. Baddeley, to proceed on our journey, on which poor Gaby cried out, "Gracious "God! Where are you going?" "On "a viſit," replied Mrs. Baddeley, "to "our friends." The bill was accordingly called for, and paid by Mr. St. Alban, and when Mr. Hanger found our determination was to leave him, he begged and prayed Mrs. Baddeley would let

him only exchange ten words with her alone, and he ſhould be ſatisfied. "Not "one," ſays ſhe, "but in the preſence "of my friends. It is of no uſe," continued ſhe, "to follow and purſue me "as you do; for I am reſolved never "more to ſee you, except it be in pub-"lic, where I cannot avoid it."

Though I can feel for the unhappy ſituation of any one, yet my reſentment at Mr. Hanger's conduct, prevented my feeling for him. I told him, that he had better leave us, for if his father heard of this viſit, it would incur his diſpleaſure. His reply was, that he cared not for his father on this occaſion; nor any thing elſe, where it interfered ſo

ſo much with his happineſs. Our carriage being then at the door, we approached it, and he followed us to it, with ſeeming anxiety, and begged to know how far we were going. Mrs. Baddeley told him to Oxford; and the coachman was ordered to take us on in that road. Thus did we get rid of him. We went on with Mr. St. Alban, as far as Nettlebed, and in our way, I opened the whole myſtery to him. I told him, Mr. Hanger was not mad; but, that I ſaid ſo, merely to put a ſtop to his quarrelling. We ſtaid at Nettlebed that night, ſpent the evening very agreeably, and the next morning parted. Mr. St. Alban went on to Oxford, and we, on our return to London.

Before we ſet off, the landlord aſked us, if we knew any family that wanted a pretty country houſe. He had one to let well furniſhed, with a ſtable and coach-houſe, a good garden, orchard and dairy, ſituated on a common, delightfully pleaſant, on an eminence, within three miles of Henley; in a good neighbourhood, where firing might be had out of an adjoining wood, for the cutting, and where the fruit, &c. paid the rent, which was only twenty pounds. His account pleaſed us, and as it was not much out of our way, we went to ſee it; and as my family was growing up, for I was a married woman, though I did not live with my huſband, and the place took my fancy; I engaged it for

for one year, gave the man three guineas as earneſt, and placed a poor woman in it, whom he recommended, 'till ſuch time as I ſent my family down. I told Mrs. Baddeley that I would, if poſſible, prevail on Mr. Steele to go down with my children and live in it; for though Mr. Steele and I lived apart, we were on good terms.

Leſt we ſhould meet with Mr. Hanger again, at the Red Lion at Henley, we ordered the coachman to paſs the houſe as quick as he could, which he did, and we ſaw no more of him. At the foot of Henley hill, we met Captain Stanhope, ſecond ſon of the late Lord Harrington, who was quartered at Henley, and a

Captain Hodges, who politely came up to the carriage, and walked up the hill along ſide of it, converſing with us all the way. When we came to Maiden-bridge, we ſtopped ſome little time, and in the interim came up two poſt-chaiſes and four. In the firſt was the Earl of Peterborough, with a gentleman; in the latter, Mr. Dillon and a lady. Lord Peterborough, hearing we were in the houſe, came in and paid his reſpects to us, ſaying, he was going to Bath; ſhould have been happy to have ſtaid and dined with us, if he was not on a poſt-haſte journey to ſee a ſick friend.

Between

Between Maidenhead and London, having ſent our ſervant on before us to Hammerſmith, we were a little alarmed on the road by a foot-pad, who would have ſtopped the chaiſe, but I ordered the drivers to whip the horſes; they galloped, and we ſoon out-run him.

Though we had been abſent from town four days, we got home before Lord Melbourne's return. Mrs. Baddeley determined not to tell him of this journey, but to ſay, ſhe had ſtaid at home all the time, and nurſed herſelf. I believe the air was of ſervice to her, for ſhe had no head-ach whilſt ſhe was out. I prepared the accounts againſt his Lordſhip called for them: he came

in

in the levening, but never mentioned them, which I was ſorry for, as I was in want of caſh to diſcharge ſome of Mrs. Baddeley's debts, which five or ſix of her creditors were very importunate to have done. Mr. Law, the linen-draper, in Coventry-ſtreet, Hay-market, was one; who had prevailed on Mrs. Baddeley's good nature, to lay out one hundred and ninety pounds with him. His bill was but of three months ſtanding, and I had paid him eighty pounds in the time; I told him, therefore, as Mrs. Baddeley had not been long upon his books, he muſt indulge her a few days longer, and then it ſhould be paid. He was very inſolent on the occaſion; and, as I did not know from his beha-

viour,

viour, what he might do; to prevent any trouble to her, as I had not twenty pounds of her money, I gave him a draft on my own caſh, for the amount, and told him, he ſhould never have it in his power to behave ſo again: for I would take care that Mrs. Baddeley ſhould never lay out another ſhilling with him. I told Mrs. Baddeley of his behaviour, but did not ſay I had paid him, as I thought a fear of being arreſted, might, in future, be a check on ſuch extravagances. She ſeemed very uneaſy, ſaid, ſhe would not be ſo fooliſh another time, and hoped my Lord would come that evening, that money might be had to pay him. "I wiſh," continued ſhe, "I could prevail on "you, my dear Mrs. Steele, to lend me

"as

"as much, as I am afraid he will uſe me "ill". Seeing her unhappy, I produced his receipt, and ſhe bleſſed me a thouſand times, and hoped ſhe ſhould have an opportunity to return my kindneſs. I replied, the beſt return ſhe could make, was to conſult me in future, when ſhe wiſhed to lay out any large ſum of money, and that this would tend to *her* happineſs as well as mine: for as her debts amounted to upwards of two thouſand pounds, I had my doubts whether Lord Melbourne would diſcharge them as ſhe wiſhed. She then begged I would not acquaint his Lordſhip of the whole, leſt it ſhould alarm him; and declared, that if a thouſand people were to come in future to ſhew her

 things,

things, ſhe would ſee none of them; and ſeemed very unhappy at her ſituation. "It is in vain," ſaid I, "to talk "of it now, as the miſchief is done; all "you have to do, is to be more pru-"dent in future, and I will contrive, "ſome way or other, to get you out of "the difficulty." She then began to be a little more at her eaſe, and particularly when his Lordſhip came, and ſhe ſaw him put ſome money into my hand, ſaying, "That muſt do, Mrs. Steele, "for the preſent." Lord Melbourne, having told her he had given me ſome caſh; he was no ſooner gone, than ſhe flew to me to know how much I had received; and, on my ſaying, four hundred pounds, ſhe exclaimed, "Good

"God!

"God! No more! Why did not you "preſs him for a larger ſum?" On my telling her what his Lordſhip ſaid, when he gave it, namely, "That muſt "do for the preſent," ſhe ſaw, as well as myſelf, the impropriety there would be, in aſking him for a further ſum. "And how we are to manage," ſays I, "God only knows; for your "note of ſix hundred pounds, for the "necklace, will be brought to-morrow "for payment." "Take the neck-lace," ſays ſhe, "and pledge it for as "much as you can get, and let the note "be paid, or I ſhall be frightened out "of my wits." Accordingly I took the neck-lace to Mr. Trip, a pawn-broker, in St. Martin's-lane, a man whom I had known

known from my childhood, and could only get two hundred and ten pounds upon it; "Well," says she, "that, "with the four hundred pounds you "have, will pay my draft, and we must "see and get some more money how we "can." The note was brought, and was paid. I advised her, when Lord Melbourne next came, to tell him herself of the debts that she owed; but, she declared she would sooner die than say one word to him on the subject. I knew no other way than advancing her the money myself; but, having done that before, and his Lordship not keeping his promise to repay me, it was not in my power to pay all these debts, as I wished: however, I knew the worst; I

had enough to quiet them all, if they became troubleſome, and I told her I would part with all I had, rather than ſhe ſhould be unhappy.

I don't know the reaſon, but Lord Melbourne was not ſo laviſh now of his money, as he had been. His own expences might occaſion it; but, be that as it would, the truth is, he never mentioned the article of money again, for three-weeks, and when he did, it was only that he would let me have ſome ſhortly. I then told his Lordſhip, I hoped he would. "Why?" ſays he, "Mrs. Steele, can you want money?" I replied, "I did," and on his aſking how much? I made no anſwer, and his Lordſhip

Lordſhip ſaid, I ſhould have ſome next week. I was quite out of ſpirits on the occaſion, but Mrs. Baddeley ſaid, "Don't "make yourſelf uneaſy, I can find "a way to pay theſe debts, if you will "agree to it:" and on enquiring how; ſhe ſaid, "His Grace the Duke of Nor-"thumberland had made her great of-"fers, and it was only her conſenting "to his wiſhes, and ſhe ſhould be out "of all this trouble." I told her, I would never conſent to her paying her debts that way; as it was doing more evil, and running head-long into perdition; that if her mind was that way turned, I never would forgive her. She then aſked me how ſhe ſhould act; I told her, a little time, with prudence,

would put an end to this difficulty; that I would part with the laſt ſhilling to help her; and as her creditors were not very troubleſome, I hoped to bring things round. Though my heart felt much at this time, I carried it off as well as I could, that I might not add to her uneaſineſs. It had a good effect, and kept her for a little time within bounds; yet occaſionally ſhe would want this thing, and the other, which in fact ſhe had no occaſion for, and which I put a ſtop to, by reminding her of her preſent embarraſſment.

The Duke of Northumberland, as if he had private intelligence of our neceſſity, ſent again to renew his former of-

fers.

fers. The ſame gentleman, who applied to Mrs. Baddeley in Hyde-park, now came to Grafton-ſtreet, and begged to ſee her, in order to deliver a note he had brought from Northumberland-houſe into her own hands. This ſurprized her, and ſhe ſaid, "What "ſhall I do? I had better ſee him."— "By no means," ſays I. For, knowing her ſentiments, I dreaded the conſequence; ſo I went down and told him Mrs. Baddeley was much indiſpoſed, and could not do herſelf the pleaſure of waiting on him; but if he would intruſt me with the note, I would certainly deliver it, and an anſwer ſhould be ſent. His reply was, the contents of the note could not be anſwered without his having

ing an interview, as his Grace did not chooſe to write all he had, in command, to inform her of; and that if I would name the time when he could ſee Mrs. Baddeley, he would wait on her at that time. Now, ſo anxious was ſhe in this buſineſs, that ſhe came to liſten to what the gentleman ſaid; and on hearing him ſay, he would come at ſome other time, ſhe ſent her ſervant to beg to ſpeak to me, and I deſired the gentleman would wait till my return, which he readily agreed to. On my entering her room, ſhe ſaid, "Mrs. Steele, "don't let him go; ſure you muſt be "mad! At a time when we are ſo much "involved. This is a fine opportunity "to extricate myſelf out of every dif-

"ficulty.

"ficulty. For his Grace is a liberal "and a generous man." "Yes," replied I, "and what reward does he "require?—Such a one, that if you "agree to, I will not put up with. I "have already ſuffered much by your "imprudence in this way, and I am "convinced his Grace will never beſtow "his bounty, where he cannot be grati-"fied in return." This ſhe declared he never ſhould. All ſhe wiſhed, was to ſee the note and the gentleman; accordingly, in oppoſition to me, he was deſired to walk up to the drawing-room; and, as I was much diſpleaſed, I left them to themſelves. She ſaw him, and when he was gone, began to acquaint me with the reſult of his viſit,

which

which, at firſt, I would neither hear nor liſten to; but on further intreaties I complied. She firſt gave me the note, and begged me to read it; it's contents were as follow:

"The Duke of Northumberland "preſents his compliments to Mrs. "Baddeley, and has ſent a gentleman "to communicate ſomething of conſe- "quence to her.

"*Wedneſday morning,*

"*eleven o'clock.*"

She then told me that his Grace had offered her his protection for life, with the payment of all her debts, if ſhe owed any; with any ſum of money ſhe might

might name; provided ſhe would live with him, and ſee no other perſon whatever: that ſhe might either live in his houſe, or any other ſhe liked, on condition ſhe admitted no other viſitor than him; that he would allow her fifteen hundred pounds a year, and if ſhe was faithful to him, would think of a ſettlement. She ſaid, that after hearing this gentleman out, ſhe gave him to underſtand, that her ſituation was ſuch, as put it out of her power to comply with his Grace's wiſhes; that ſhe had at preſent a noble benefactor, to whom ſhe was bound in gratitude to live with, and that if his Grace's offers were ten times as great, as he had now mentioned, ſhe could not accept them. The

gentleman

gentleman ſpoke much in praiſe of his noble friend, and ſaid his bounty would not be bounded by what he had ſaid, but ſhe would find him liberal in the extreme; "on which I replied," continued ſhe, "that his Grace did not "propoſe a ſettlement, until he ſaw the "propriety of my conduct, which is "far from a liberal offer." This he returned, would be no obſtacle to his Grace, if my anſwer was ſatisfactory; for that his Grace's eſteem and regard for me was ſuch, as would make him happy to gratify me. However, ſays ſhe, I gave him no hopes, conſidering with myſelf how much more noble Lord Melbourne's bounty had been to me, than his Grace's propoſals amounted

to.

to. "And though," adds ſhe, "my im-
"prudence urged me to ſee this gentle-
"man, to learn how far I could extricate
"myſelf from my preſent embarraſſment,
"I aſſure you I gave him a denial." I told her I thought ſhe acted right; and ſhe thought ſo too, as ſhe would not offend me, ſhe ſaid, for the world. "Offending me," replied I, "is nonſenſe. Lord
"Melbourne's generoſity ſhould not be
"abuſed, and though his unfortunate
"attachment to you, (for he being a
"married man, I call it unfortunate) has
"been winked at by me, as it took place
"when I could not avoid it; ſo has it
"continued under the ſame neceſſity; but
"there is no reaſon why you ſhould add
"ſin to ſin, and fill up the meaſure of
"your

" your iniquities." " Good God," ſaid I, to myſelf; " the Ducheſs of Northum-" berland is ſtill living.—How wicked is " this faſhionable world!—To me all this " is dreadful.—But like all other bad " things, they become familiar at laſt; " and we think nothing of them.—Lord " Melbourne never comes to this houſe " but I feel myſelf hurt, on account of " his Lady; and the impropriety of *his* " viſits, are quite ſufficient without the " addition of any more. Beſides," continues I, " you ſee how much more liberal " Lord Melbourne has been, than any " propoſals made by the Duke of Nor-" thumberland. Was you to accept his " Grace's offer, you muſt have purſued " a very

"a very different conduct or his year-
"ly allowance would not laſt you three
"months."

The Duke, however, did not end his application here; for in the evening this gentleman returned, and Lord Melbourne being then with her, I told him, as he had received his anſwer in the morning, that any thing he had further to ſay upon the ſubject, could not be of any conſequence. He aſſured me it was, and as ſuch he muſt acquaint her with it, or he might gain his Grace's diſpleaſure; and that as Mrs. Baddeley had ſaid, ſhe would ſee him whenever he called, he preſſed me to let her know it. I told him ſhe was then engaged

with her friend, and to ſee her was impoſſible. "That friend's name," replied the gentleman, "ſhe has made me ac-"quainted with;" of courſe, he ſuppoſed Lord Melbourne was with her: to this I ſaid, "it is of little conſequence, "who is with her;" (for I was hurt, ſhe ſhould have mentioned his name), "you cannot ſee her." I was convinced, however, that ſhe had deceived me, in reſpect to what paſſed between this gentleman and her in the morning. I would have changed the ſubject, but he kept up to his text, ſaid, it would be Mrs. Baddeley's intereſt to ſee him, and as ſhe was engaged now, he would call on her the next day, and was ſure he ſhould be admitted to her, if ſhe was

acquainted

acquainted with his being there. I told him ſhe ſhould be informed of it, and he took his leave. Lord Melbourne ſoon went, and then Mrs. Baddeley ſaid, "Has any one been here?—My dear "Mrs. Steele, has the Duke ſent "again?" "Did you expect him," returned I, "to ſend again after your "denial?" "No," ſays ſhe, "but "perſons of his rank and fortune, never "drop a purſuit ſo eaſily." I told her, I hoped ſhe had not given him the name of her friend. Her reply was, that he himſelf had mentioned it, and ſhe did not contradict it. "I am ſorry," replied I, "for this; you ſhould have "denied it." That would have been of little uſe, ſhe ſaid, for through Mr.

Hanger, and one perſon or the other, it was very well known. I then told her, this gentleman from the Duke, had been with me again, and I was at a loſs to know what he could want now. With this ſhe was highly pleaſed, and ſaid, "You did not, I hope, ſay, that I would "not ſee him? Will he be here again?" "O fie Sophy," ſays I, "if you had told "him in the morning, as you declared "to me you had; you would not want to "ſee him again." She replied, ſhe only wiſhed to hear what new offers he had to make; and on my ſaying, he would be with her again to-morrow; ſhe ſaid, ſhe muſt and would ſee him; that it ſhould be for the laſt time, for when ſhe had heard all he had to offer, ſhe would forbid his coming

coming any more. The Gentleman came again the next morning, and was ſhewn up into the drawing-room; he was with Mrs. Baddeley near two hours, and on his leaving her, I heard her ſay in a low voice, "God bleſs you; let me "ſee you to-morrow." She ran to me full of his Grace's offers, and his new propoſals, which were as follow.—That his Grace wiſhed her not to be ungrateful to her preſent benefactor, who, he found, had acted ſo nobly by her.—"Stop," ſaid I, "how came he to know how no-"bly he had acted?" She replied, "I have told him, not mentioning his "name."—I let her go on.—That his Grace propoſed calling to ſee her twice a week, and that at times when he

found Lord Melbourne was not with her; that on his firſt viſit to tea, he would give her five hundred pounds, and would then tell her himſelf his whole mind on the ſubject; that his Grace would diſcharge all her debts and be her friend for life: that the gentleman mentioned a Miſs Aſh, whom his Grace had been kind to for many years; that his liberality and bounty to her, was not to be deſcribed; that he was a man not like the faſhionable world in general, but ſteady in his attachments, unleſs he had cauſe to the contrary; and that he would do any thing for her, ſhe might deſire of him.—I liſtened to this with all the patience I was miſtreſs of, and ſhe ran on with his promiſes ſo much

much, that it would tire my reader to relate it. In ſhort, ſhe told me, ſhe gave the gentleman this anſwer; that ſhe would conſider of his propoſals, and give him her determination the next day. "And why," ſays I, "did you not give him a "poſitive denial then?" "Becauſe," returned ſhe, "I wiſhed to conſult you "firſt." I told her ſhe knew my ſentiments on the ſubject, and ſhe might aſſure herſelf, they would not alter, if the Duke had offered her his whole fortune. "Well," ſays ſhe, "ſuppoſe "we admit him to drink tea?" "That "would only lead on to further evils," replied I, "and I am determined he "ſhall not come."—"Good God," ſays ſhe, "I can have five hundred

"pounds

" pounds for nothing."—" Certainly," replied I, laughing at her, " for no-" thing!—Mankind are too fond of " their money to beſtow it, but in re-" turn for favours received." " Surely " my dear Steele," ſays ſhe, " you are " not ſerious; I have partly promiſed " to receive him at tea to-morrow."—At this I loſt my temper, and ſaid, " you may act as you pleaſe, but you " muſt invite him to ſome other houſe; " for he certainly ſhall not come here: " if he does, as ſoon as he enters the " houſe I will affront him, and I would " do the ſame, if he was King of Eng-" land." She was much diſpleaſed at this, ſaid, " I might ſuffer her to get " out of her embarraſſments, before I

" put

"put her under ſuch reſtraint." I replied, "her embarraſſments were owing "to her own folly, and now ſhe wiſhed "to commit greater, in hopes of getting out of them; that if ſhe had patience, Lord Melbourne would pay "the whole, and ſhe had nothing to do "but to act differently in future." She then ſaid, "if I would not ſuffer his "Grace to come there, ſhe would meet "him at ſome other place." "If this be "your determination," replied I, "you "ſhall abide by the conſequence, for I "will never countenance ſuch conduct." In ſhort, I could do nothing with her; ſhe was fully bent on ſeeing the Duke, but took great pains to convince me of the innocence of her intentions, and

urge

urge me to a compliance; but I was resolute, and would not consent.

The next morning this gentleman came again, and she watched his coming, thinking I might send him away without her seeing him; she saw him, and what passed between them, I did not know at the time, for she ordered the coach, and they went off together. She was gone four hours and more, and on her return, after begging my pardon, she requested me to listen to what she had to say; for as she had been doing no ill, I might attend to her with propriety, and she would tell me with truth, every thing that passed.—On my saying I would hear nothing from her, she vowed

vowed ſhe would take another bottle of laudanum, which ſhe had in her pocket. Knowing ſhe had done ſo in the affair of Mr. Hanger, I was alarmed, and thinking, whilſt ſhe was out, ſhe might have provided ſome, I judged it beſt to hear her. She then told me, as I was ſo reſolute as not to admit of the Duke's coming to the houſe, ſhe acquainted the gentleman with it, and he prevailed on her to go with him, as far as Northumberland-ſtreet, that he might acquaint his Grace with the cauſe that ſhe could not ſee him at home, ſaying he would not detain her there ten minutes. She went to Northumberland-ſtreet, where the coach ſtopped and waited his return, when he begged the

favour

favour of her to go with him into Privy-garden, juſt by Lord Pembroke's, where he would acquaint her with what his Grace had ſaid. She ſuppoſed this was to prevent any of the Duke's ſervants ſeeing her. When he returned, he got into the coach, but did not ſay more, than that his Grace was very much hurt, at my refuſing him to come to my houſe. On reaching Privy-garden he directed the coachman where to ſtop, ſaying, that place was the leaſt noticed. In a few minutes came the Duke, wrapped up in a great coat, with a handkerchief up to his face, and, getting into the coach, ordered the gentleman to go home, and wait for him. He, in a very polite manner, begged her pardon, ſhe ſaid, for the intruſion,

intruſion, but finding the lady, at whoſe houſe ſhe was at, averſe to his ſeeing her there, he was willing to embrace that opportunity, to declare his ſentiments, and ſaid, "Will you permit your coach-"man to drive on, for a ride, to Chelſea, "through the King's road;" and begged the ſilk curtains might be let down. That ſhe ordered her coachman to drive the road the Duke wiſhed, and that in the way, he ſaid a thouſand civil things to her; and that ſhe thought him a very *good* man; this was her expreſſion. That telling his Grace, ſhe had a houſe at Hammerſmith, he wiſhed to ſee it; that accordingly they went and continued there about an hour and a half; that he preſſed for favours, but had not

a wiſh for more than was really conſiſtent for her to grant. That he offered her every thing her heart could wiſh, and ſaid, how ſorry he was, I was ſo much averſe to his happineſs; that he wiſhed to know how he had offended me; that ſhe told his Grace, I had no other motive for my refuſal, than the impropriety of her conduct; that I wiſhed her to avoid all men in general, but that ſince I had imprudently entered into a connexion with one man, it would be a breach of faith, and the higheſt ingratitude, to liſten to the propoſals of any other; that his Grace ſaid, if theſe were my motives, he honoured me for them, and could not be angry with me; that was he the happy Lord that enjoyed her

favours,

favours, how much ſhould he value me: on this, he took out a glove, and begged her to aſk me to try it on; and if I liked it, to keep it and remember, that it was a preſent from him. She gave me this glove, it was a new one, and I threw it down, ſaying, I would not accept it. She ſaid do, pray take it, there is ſomething in it, but which ſhe had not looked at. Finding I would not take it up, ſhe ſtooped for it, and pulled out from it three bank-notes of one hundred pounds each.—"They are," ſays I, "the price of your infamy, and "you may keep them yourſelf; I will "have nothing to do with them; you "are the proper perſon to enjoy them, "if they will afford you any enjoy-

"ment." She ſaid, if I did not take them, ſhe would throw them into the fire; and, on my refuſing them, actually did, and it was at the riſk of my hands, that I reſcued them from the flames. I then put them into a drawer, and locked it, ſaying, it was not times to deſtroy ſuch a ſum; ſhe declared her innocence with the Duke; confeſſed ſhe had given him hopes of favours, and ſaid, ſhe might have had from him, any ſum ſhe thought proper to accept; that ſhe refuſed all his offers, but had promiſed to meet him again on Thurſday at Hammerſmith-houſe, and was determined ſhe would.

When

When ſhe had done, I ſent off a ſervant for one of her milliners, to whom ſhe owed near ſix hundred pounds, Price, of Taviſtock-ſtreet, and paid him the three hundred pounds, which ſhe ſaid his Grace ſent me as a preſent in the glove, and gave her his receipt, telling her I was happy ſo far in convincing her, that the money was properly applied to her own uſe, as it was ſhe that deſerved it, and not me. At this, ſhe exclaimed, "Oh! Mrs. Steele, "what a good heart you have! Shall I "ever live to make you amends?" I replied, there were none due or expected; that I had not a ſhadow of claim to the money, nor would I on the ſcore it was given, take a preſent from any man;

that I deſpiſed ſuch meanneſſes, and that if I received a hundred thouſand pounds in a ſimilar way, I would either return it, or apply it to her uſe. She ſolemnly aſſured me his Grace gave it with no improper view, and did it, in ſo delicate a way, that any woman might have accepted it; that he begged pardon for ſending ſo trifling a thing as a glove; but, that as it was one he had worn, and as ſhe would not permit him to preſent her his hand, he hoped ſhe would accept his glove as it's repreſentative.

About this time Mr. Foote brought out a new piece, at the little Theatre in the Hay-market, called, the *Maid of Bath*, alluding to Miſs Linley, now Mrs.

Mrs. Sheridan: and, prior to it's firſt appearance, he called on us, and requeſted we would accept of a box for the night, which ſhould be at our ſervice, for us and our friends; and hoped we would make a point of being there, in order to grace (as he was pleaſed to ſay) his Theatre. The box reſerved for us was next to the ſtage-box, that commanded a ſight of the whole houſe, and we went. Mr. Foote performed in this play himſelf, it went off with eclat, and was well received by a crowded houſe. About the middle of the piece, where Mr. Foote enlarged much on the beauty of the Maid of Bath, he added, "Not even the beauty of the nine "Muſes, nor even that of the divine

Bad-

"Baddeley herſelf, who there ſits, (pointing to the box where we ſat,) "could exceed that of the Maid of "Bath." This drew a thunder of applauſe from all parts of the houſe; he was encored, and Mr. Foote repeated the words three times. Every eye was on Mrs. Baddeley, and I do not recollect ever ſeeing her ſo confuſed before. She roſe from her ſeat, and curteſied to the audience, and it was near a quarter of an hour before ſhe could diſcontinue her obedience, the plaudits laſting ſo long. This trick of Mr. Foote's, put her ſo much to the bluſh, that the colour did not leave her face the whole evening. Mrs. Baddeley's face, was not, according to the faſhion of modern beauties, made

made up by art, for ſhe never uſed any rouge but on the ſtage; which all the performers, men and women, are obliged to do, owing to the livid paleneſs which the lights in front caſt upon the face.

Having occaſion to go out to ſee a daughter of mine, who was then at ſchool, ſick, Mrs. Baddeley complained of a head-ach, and ſaid, ſhe would lie down; deſiring me to call at her milliner's and other places, for neceſſaries which ſhe wanted. I was alſo obliged to ſtay longer than I intended, as finding my child ill, I fetched Doctor Eliot to attend her. On my return home, I went up ſtairs, gently, expecting to find Mrs. Baddeley aſleep; but, hearing a noiſe above, I liſtened, and

and heard her laugh immoderately, which ſhe always did at any miſchief that was going forward. On entering the room, I told her I was happy to find her head-ach gone, and wiſhed to know what made her ſo chearful, that I might partake of it. At this ſhe laughed the more, and ſaid, "My dear "Steele, as you ſtaid ſo long, I was com-"ing after you in a chair, and have or-"dered my ſervant to fetch one; do ſend "down and prevent it." Mrs. Baddeley then went to the glaſs, and bad her maid ſtand by her; then viewing herſelf, ſhe ſaid to her maid, "I cannot think why "the world ſhould ſo much admire my "ſiſter; to be ſure ſhe's handſome; "but my face is as handſome as her's,

"and

"and more ſo; is it not Fanny?" The maid replied, "Yes, Miſs, indeed you "are much handſomer than her Lady-"ſhip;" and then Mrs. Baddeley laughed again. "Well," ſaid I, "pro-"ceed, I hear you with pleaſure." She went up to the glaſs again, ſtrutting and viewing herſelf as before, and ſaying, "Well, the world can but admire "me; and if I am not ſo tall as my "ſiſter, they can only ſay, there goes a "*Lump of Beauty*." On my enquiring into all this nonſenſe, ſhe ſaid, a gentleman had been with her in my abſence, and had told her this little ſtory of Lady Archer's ſiſter. The lady that is always ſeen with Lady Archer is her ſiſter. They are the daughters of Mr. Weſt, who

lived

lived in the great houſe in King-ſtreet, Covent-garden, now known by the name of Lowe's Hotel. "The gentleman, "who has been here," ſaid ſhe, "has "been entertaining me with the manner "in which he entered into high life; ſay-"ing, this Miſs Weſt, who called herſelf "the *Lump of Beauty*, in the manner I "have repreſented it before the glaſs, fell "in love with him; that till this accident "happened, he had no expectations, but "to wear a pen behind his ear all his life." "Who is this gentleman," ſaid I, inter-rupting her?—"Hear his hiſtory firſt," ſays ſhe, "and then I'll tell you.—That "he was the ſecond ſon of a Weſt-India "merchant, living in, or near, Golden-"ſquare; that he was placed at a count-

"ing-

" ing-houſe in the city, and had been
" there ſome time; that accident made
" him acquainted with this Lump of
" Beauty, who introduced him to her
" ſiſter, Lady Archer, and her huſband."
" This introduction into high life un-
" ſettled his mind to the counting-houſe,
" according to his own declaration, and
" made him pine for better company
" than his ſituation in life entitled him
" to; that he then began to ſtudy
" dreſs and faſhionable manners, and,
" being a perſonable man and well edu-
" cated, through Lord Archer's family,
" he got introduced to other perſons of
" rank, ſupporting his expences by
" play, at which he was very fortunate."
" Why don't you tell me his name?"

ſaid I, with impatience. "Softly," returned ſhe, "and you ſhall know it.— "This gentleman, who has juſt been "here in your abſence, waited on this "Lump of Beauty for ſome time, and, "through her, became a member of "the ladies club, and was admitted at "Almack's, at Boodle's, at Gooſtrey's, "and all the gaming-houſes in town; "where he had ſuch a run of luck, as "to enable him to keep a vis-a-vis, "and live as a man of fortune."— "Well, then," returned I, "at beſt, "you can only call him a gambler, and "he may in one night be as wretched, "as he is now happy." "Oh," replies ſhe, "he has wit at will to direct him, "and has been prudent, and taken care

"of

" of his money. This gentleman," ſays ſhe, " as he was paſſing the end of " Grafton-ſtreet, ſeeing you go out " without me, came in and told my " maid, for John was out, that he muſt " ſee me, on very particular buſineſs. " The girl ſaid, I was ill, but aſked him " in, and ſaid ſhe would go and ac- " quaint me. He followed her up ſtily, " and came into my room." " And " who was this inſolent man?" ſays I, with a degree of warmth. " Only," ſays ſhe, curteſying and laughing, " Mr. Thomas Storer." Vexed beyond meaſure, and to be laughed at, I replied, " Had I known his name ſooner, " I ſhould not have attended to his hiſ- " tory." " Was you up?" " No,"

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ſays ſhe, "and I had enough to do to "keep him from me. But Fanny went "down ſtairs, and called Betty the "laundry-maid, who would put on her "cap before ſhe would appear, ſhe "ſaid, before any gentleman; and then, "when her cap was on, and Suſan the "kitchen-maid had been up into the "garret, to put on a clean apron, they "all met, and ſettling the matter be-"tween themſelves, came at laſt into "my room, and with great difficulty "got him away into another room."— "Why," ſays I, "they were a long "time about it. Why did you not "ring the bell?" "Oh," ſays ſhe, laughing, "the wicked man had me too "faſt in his arms for that; however,

"he

" he left me at laſt, and I got up. He " then apologized for coming on me " ſo abruptly, and did it in ſuch a " winning way, that I could not for " my ſoul be angry, but gave him a " kiſs and forgave him." I loſt all patience with her on this recital, and told her, that her expoſing herſelf to her ſervants was worſe than all. She told me, ſhe could no way help it. I was very angry with her, but it anſwered no purpoſe. Thus, was ſhe laughing at me the whole time; for Fanny had been privy to this meeting, and the noiſe I heard on going up-ſtairs, was no other than his flying out of her chamber; and, during the time ſhe was relating his hiſtory, he ſlipped off. She was at this

time in ſo tittering a mood, and ſo full of her fun, calling herſelf the Lump of Beauty, that I found it was no time to talk to her; but, determined to diſcharge Fanny, and tell her my mind, at a more ſeaſonable opportunity. She then ſaid, ſhe had ſeen another gentleman, and ſhe was afraid Mr. Storer had heard what he ſaid. This was the Duke of Northumberland's friend, that came with a moſt polite meſſage from his Grace, requeſting the favour of a meeting at Hammerſmith that evening, at ſix. She aſked me to accompany her, and on my ſaying I would not, replied, ſhe would then go by herſelf. I told her, I was unhappy at ſeeing it; ſhe replied, that her intentions were innocent,

cent, and that ſhe ſhould go for the laſt time, merely to acquaint his Grace, ſhe could admit of his viſits no longer; "For," continues ſhe, "a man of his "rank and ſituation in life ſhould be "treated with reſpect;" that he was a gentleman of too good a character to put an improper conſtruction on her meeting him; that no harm could ariſe from a reſerved interview; that he could not *eat* her (theſe were her words) and that as he had always behaved with the greateſt politeneſs and attention to her, ſhe would not be wanting in civility on her part. I told her, ſhe was miſtreſs of her own actions; that I wiſhed not to exerciſe any authority over her; that what I ſaid was out of pure friendſhip

and

and regard, and that as I found my friendly advice was not taken, I ſhould in future not attempt to give it; that ſhe ſeemed totally to forget her benefactor Lord Melbourne, and the injury ſhe had already done his Lady; and was now ſeeking for an opportunity of diſturbing the peace of another family.

In the afternoon ſhe ordered the coach and went to Hammerſmith alone. In her abſence came Lord Melbourne, I told him Mrs. Baddeley was out. "Out!" exclaimed he, "And without "you!—How is this?" I told his Lordſhip I was not very well, and could not go with her;—"Where is ſhe gone?" ſays he.—To Hammerſmith I told

I told him for a ride, and to give ſome directions about the houſe.—He replied, he had left his lady at the play-houſe, and muſt return to her immediately; and therefore after a little converſation left me.

Mrs. Baddeley did not come home till twelve o'clock, and when ſhe came, was in high glee and ſpirits; begged my pardon for being ſo long abſent, but ſaid ſhe could not avoid it, and that I ſhould not be diſpleaſed when I heard all. "I have never" continued ſhe, "experi-"enced ſo much, as ſince I left you."—I told her I was not in ſpirits to attend to her, and wiſhed to go to bed. She was the ſame way diſpoſed, and we went up together.

gether. "Now," ſays ſhe, "my ever "dear, dear Mrs. Steele, let me tell you "all that has paſt,"—and on my ſaying to-morrow would be time enough, ſhe replied, "if you do not hear me now, "I ſhall not be able to ſleep." My ſilence giving conſent, ſhe began with ſaying, the Duke was at Hammerſmith before her, that he handed her from her carriage,—that they drank tea,—and that, during tea,—he launched forth a great deal in her praiſe; and expreſſed his love and eſteem for her, in the warmeſt terms, and that he ran on two hours, uſing all the arguments he was maſter of, to gain her compliance with his wiſhes, but that ſhe was not to be won; that he offered her any part of his fortune;

tune; that when he found words would not avail, he took her in his arms; vowed he loved no woman on earth but her; that if ſhe perſiſted in her non-compliance, he muſt—and there he ſtoped.—Muſt?—What? ſaid ſhe,—"I "muſt," returned he,—"be unhappy;" that he held her faſt in his arms an hour, and that ſhe begged him repeatedly to let her go—and he would not. "How then," ſaid ſhe, "my dear "friend, did I wiſh to be with you! "I never till that moment, was ſenſible "of my imprudence, and how little "dependence there is in any man; for "I was then aware of his determina-"tion, and his offers I diſregarded, "as droſs." "In ſhort," ſaid ſhe,

"much

"much againſt my will, he led me to "my chamber; I found my reſolution "give way, and I did, what I now re-"pent of." She cried much, as ſhe gave me this relation, and ſaid, he would have given her bank-notes, to a great amount, but that ſhe was ſo angry with herſelf, for what ſhe had done, and his improper treatment of her, that ſhe would not take them;—that he ſaid, he would incloſe them in a letter, and ſend them to her next day.—"I am "now glad," replied I, "that you ſee "for once the impropriety of your con-"duct. Had you taken my advice, you "would not have put yourſelf in his "power, and, conſequently, would not "have met with the ill uſage you men-

"tion,

"tion, and which you richly deſerve.—
"You ſee how far mankind is to be rely-
"ed on; be they of what rank they will!
"But, with all the ill treatment, you ſay
"you now met with, and the tears it has
"coſt you, I find you returned home full
"of ſpirits, as if nothing had happened."
Theſe were affected ſpirits, ſhe ſaid, leſt I would not give her a patient hearing, and that the ſervants might not make remarks.—She then begged I would forgive her, ſaying, ſhe would never act in oppoſition to my advice in future; and I promiſed ſo to do, on condition ſhe would diſcharge her maid, for being inſtrumental to Mr. Storer's ſeeing her in the morning, for that I was perſwaded

ſhe had taken money of him, to admit him. She believed it herſelf, and thought ſhe went to Mr. Storer's lodgings, and gave him intelligence of my being out; for Mr. Storer lived in the neighbourhood, and ſhe was ſeen to go out. She was of courſe diſcharged. It came out afterwards from Mr. Storer himſelf, that ſhe actually did as we apprehended.

The next morning Sir Thomas Mills called (this gentleman is the natural ſon of Lord Mansfield); invited himſelf to tea, and ſaid, with our leave he would bring an old friend with him, Admiral Spry. The gentleman alſo from the Duke of Northumberland call-

ed,

ed, and begged to ſee Mrs. Baddeley, ſaying, he had a letter only to deliver into her hands, which required no anſwer, and that he would not detain her a minute. She with a ſeeming reluctance ſaw him, and on his delivering the letter, he bowed and left her. Returning ſhe gave me the letter, which I opened; it contained three bank-notes, to the amount of five hundred pounds, and was as follows:

"My dear Mrs. Baddeley,

"Incloſed is a trifle which I "beg your acceptance of. By your "accepting of this, I ſhall be able to "direct ſome more of the ſame ſort to

" your hand, and to explain myſelf
" more fully.

" Reſpectfully Your's.

" *Friday morning.*"

This note was written by the Duke himſelf, but without a name. Mrs. Baddeley obſerved upon this, that this ſum was firſt ſent by way of introduction, to ſee how it would be received. " And if the ſum of five hundred pounds " was not at this time, of great uſe to " me," ſays ſhe, " I would ſend it back; " but as it is, Mrs. Steele, put it into " your pocket: I ſuppoſe I ſhall hear " from him again in a day or two."

In

In the afternoon came Sir Thomas Mills, with Admiral Spry, who invited us to the Naval review, at Portſmouth. We were juſt going to cards, when Lord Melbourne knocked at the door, which obliged Mrs. Baddeley to leave them, ſaying, ſhe hoped they would excuſe the neceſſity, and ſhould be happy to ſee them at any other time. Mrs. Baddeley having retired, they ſoon took their leave, the Admiral ſaying, he ſhould expect us at Portſmouth.

I began now to think of diſpoſing of the Duke's money, and propoſed the next day to divide it among thoſe who moſt wanted it. Mrs. Baddeley ſaid, his Lordſhip promiſed, in a few days, to

ſettle accounts with me. She ſaid, he made many enquiries about what ſhe was doing at Hammerſmith; but that ſhe excuſed herſelf very well, ſaying, ſhe had taken my daughter with her, then about ten years of age. "How's "that?" returns his Lordſhip, "Mrs. "Steele ſaid, you was alone?" "Oh," "replied ſhe, ſhe does not conſider the "child as any one." He then enquired after the child, and ſaid, when his ſon was a man, he ſhould marry her, and ſhe would then be a *lamb*. His Lordſhip's name being Lamb.

As I made it a rule, when we had any money to ſpare, to ſend for the tradeſmen, in whoſe debt we were, and pay them

them part of their bills, if not the whole; it was a means of keeping them quiet. The Duke's five hundred pounds was wholly diſpoſed of this way. Mr. Storer called, but no admittance. We then propoſed an airing, and, getting into the coach, Mr. George Hobart came up, and offered to accompany us. We went towards Turnham-green, where he requeſted we would do him the honour to dine with him. A dinner was ordered at the Pack-horſe, and we had every thing the houſe afforded. Mr. Hobart's polite attention on all occaſions, commanded our reſpect; for though Mrs. Baddeley would not receive his addreſſes, he always noticed her as a gentlewoman, and was at all

times

times ready to oblige her. On our return home, we found the gentleman from the Duke of Northumberland had called, and propoſed calling the next day. "This," ſaid, Mrs. Baddeley, "is with more money to me." Two letters were alſo brought; one from Mr. Johnſon, and one from Lord Melbourne.

Admiral Spry called to acquaint us that the time for the review was fixed; that it would continue three days, and adviſed us to write down, and order beds; as when the people at Portſmouth came to know it, we ſhould not be able to procure them under ten guineas a night. The Admiral told us, that, if we pleaſed, we might be all day on board

his

his ſhip; except the day his Majeſty propoſed him the honour of dining with him. The Admiral was a plain man, but one of a princely character, and an ornament to the navy; we accepted his invitation, and, when we came to Portſmouth, we were to let him know, and he would fetch us in his barge.

At ten o'clock, according to appointment, the gentleman called again from the Duke of Northumberland, and requeſted to ſee Mrs. Baddeley, as he had a letter to deliver into her own hands, and wiſhed to ſee me likewiſe. Mrs. Baddeley urged me to ſee him, ſaying, ſhe had told the Duke how I had diſpoſed of the three hundred pounds

pounds he ſent me, and ſhewed him the receipt for the ſame; which ſhe took in her pocket purpoſely, that he might not think me under an obligation I would not acknowledge: at this, his Grace ſaid, my heart was as noble as my mind, and that I was an ornament to my ſex. Therefore if I refuſed any thing now ſent, it would be folly; he having no occaſion to bribe me, for that the Duke being now fully acquainted with her ſentiments, nothing further diſhonourable would ever paſs between them. I went down to the gentleman, not forgetting her words in my way; and ſaid, "Sir, my ſervant informed "me, you have a wiſh to ſee *me*." "Pardon me," replied he, "it is by "his

" his Grace of Northumberland's order, " that I am, with his compliments to " preſent you with this." I aſked, If it required an anſwer? He ſaid no; on which I put it in my pocket, and left him, ſaying, Mrs. Baddeley would wait on him preſently. She begged to know what paſſed, and I gave her the letter; ſhe opened it, and it contained four bank-notes of one hundred pounds each, with a ſlip of paper, on which was written. *A reward for a noble diſpoſition.* Mrs. Baddeley returned it to me, and then went down to the gentleman, with whom ſhe had much converſation, continuing with him more than an hour; he gave her a packet ſealed up, which ſhe did not open till after

after he was gone; ſhe then flew up to me, and gave it me to open, ſaying, there was no letter, for what the Duke had to ſay, he did not chooſe to commit to writing. The packet contained, as before, five hundred pounds in bank-notes; which made her very happy: ſhe then told me what the gentleman had ſaid to her, namely, that his Grace, being fearful ſhe ſhould refuſe the letter, he was directed, if ſhe did, to give it to her, to preſent me with it; that the Duke ſent his kind love to her, that he was and ever ſhould remain in the mind he had before expreſſed himſelf; that as ſhe had ſo often told him, ſhe could not receive his viſits, in her preſent ſituation; he only requeſted, that if time

ſhould

ſhould alter it, and ſhe would acquaint him with the ſame, ſhe would meet with all his promiſes, whenever ſhe choſe to command them; that he would, on all occaſions, ſhew himſelf her friend, and the only favour ſhe could beſtow on him, in the preſent ſtate of things, was to put it in his power to convince her of it, otherwiſe than by words, and to accept the ſmall token he had ſent, in teſtimony of it.

"This money," ſaid Mrs. Baddeley, "will make us happy at Portſ-"mouth." "Yes," returned I, "It "will make our *minds* happy, for I beg "it may be paid where it is due." She put a negative upon this, ſaying, "The

" people muſt wait till money comes " from Lord Melbourne, for his Lord- " ſhip has not been very bountiful of " late ; therefore, till *more* comes, I " will not part with *this*." I told her, ſhe might command the money he ſent to me, but ſhe declared, on her honour and ſoul, I ſhould not part with a ſhilling of it on her account ; that it was my own, and three hundred pounds to it, (alluding to the firſt three his Grace ſent me) if I had what was my right. All ſhe wiſhed, was, that I would give her a keep-ſake, which ſhe would preſerve in memory of me, as long as ſhe lived. I promiſed her I would, and as ſhe had no bracelets, I bought her a pair of enamelled lockets, ſet round with brilliants,

brilliants, with ſmall pearls to go round the wriſt, which coſt me one hundred and thirty pounds, and which ſhe did me the favour to accept. She conſtantly wore them, and did me the credit to ſay, upon all occaſions, they were a preſent from me.

In point of money-matters now, we were tolerably eaſy; but, my fears were, that whilſt this ſum was in the houſe, ſome new thing would occur, that would not be pleaſing. One of the players came the next day, and gave us an account of an actor of ſome merit, being in diſtreſs, locked up in a ſpunging-houſe, for a debt of twenty-five pounds; that Mr. Garrick had been applied to,

and would not advance him a penny; that he had a good wife, and a family of children; that, as he had not money to defray the expences of the houſe where he was, he muſt go to jail that night, if he could not find a friend to aſſiſt him; and, that at his deſire, he took the liberty to call on Mrs. Baddeley. She looked wiſhfully at me, anxious I knew to relieve him, if it met with my approbation: I told her, as this perſon had a family, if ſhe would pay half the debt, I would pay the other. "No," returns ſhe, "permit me, I "will pay the whole. Let us order the "coach, and go and relieve him." We accordingly went, diſcharged the debt and coſts, and took him home to his wife,

wife, who did not expect to see him: and, to express the gratitude of the people, and the satisfaction we felt, would require an abler pen than mine. He was desirous of giving us his note for the money, but we refused it, saying, we begged his acceptance of it; and Mrs. Baddeley giving one of the children two guineas, we left them to the enjoyment of each other. We had scarce reached home, before Lord Palmerston called, and asking where we had been, we told him, to relieve a distressed family, and mentioned some of the particulars. His Lordship seemed desirous of knowing how far he could be of use to the man, and who he was, as he should be happy to send him a few

guineas. I begged to be excuſed mentioning his name, as he was a player, and it might tend only to expoſe him, without any good end; but, that if his Lordſhip thought proper to ſend him any thing, I would convey his favour, and the family ſhould acknowledge it. He gave me five guineas, but begged I would not ſay from whom it came.

Sir Thomas Mills now called, to acquaint us, from Admiral Spry, that we muſt ſet off the day after to-morrow for Portſmouth; he adviſed us to take our own horſes, and to lie at Guilford the firſt night; and, on our arrival at Portſmouth, to ſend immediately to the Admiral.

— As

As Lord Melbourne was out of town, and would continue ſo for ſome time, we began to prepare for the journey, and in order to make the beſt appearance we could, we equipped ourſelves accordingly, both for our perſons and our equipage. Doctor Arne came the next morning to breakfaſt, to whom we never were denied, and enquiring of him, what brought him out ſo early, he ſaid, to look for money, and aſked, if we could favour him with the loan of twenty pounds. The money was lent him, by Mrs. Baddeley, and he gave his note for the ſame, payable, either to her or to me. Mrs. Baddeley, as ſoon as ſhe received it, threw it into the fire, ſaying, "Now, "Doctor, your note is paid. Your

"accep-

"acceptance of twenty pounds, is a "ſufficient recompence to me; for, in "my firſt outſet in life, when I was not "able to pay you, how kindly did you "and your ſon give me many a leſ- "ſon. This is a circumſtance I ſhall "never forget, and I hope to be able "to ſhew my further gratitude in a lit- "tle time." Dr. Arne was not a little pleaſed, flattered, and thankful. When he was gone, ſhe aſked me, whether I thought ſhe acted right; I told her, I ſhould have done the ſame, had I been under ſimilar obligations. But ſhe muſt not think of parting with any more money at preſent.

I had

I had many things to adjuſt abroad; but, being afraid to leave her, I propoſed ſending for the hair-dreſſer, who I knew would engage her three hours, and put a book into her hands. She approved of this, for ſhe was fond of reading, and few women read better; and the man was ſent for.

Before the man had finiſhed her hair, I returned. She aſked me, if I had bought her the tickets ſhe wiſhed in the Iriſh lottery. I told her, I had bought three; "Then, pray, Mrs. Steele," ſaid ſhe, "give them to the hair-dreſſer to "try his fortune." I did as ſhe deſired; he was thankful, and ſaid, as they were

were a preſent of her's, he was ſure they would be lucky.

We had a viſit now from Doctor Hayes, of Marlborough-ſtreet, the phyſician, with whom Mrs. Baddeley once lived. She was happy to ſee him, and he ſtayed tea. He talked of old times, and from thence he paſſed to preſent ones; ſaid, he had purchaſed ſome ſhares in the Pantheon, which brought on the ſtory related before of her having been refuſed admittance. He was happy, he ſaid, to find the nobility took ſo active a part in her favour, and declared the managers were terribly frightened for the conſequences. He then told her, ſhe

was

was ſtill as dear to him as ever; but, as I did not quit the room, he had no opportunity of ſaying more, and after tea he left us. At nine o'clock, Mr. Dibden, the player, came to aſk a favour of her, which ſhe readily complied with. He ſtaid ſupper, told us a ſtrange ſtory of Mr. Bickerſtaff, the author, and of Mrs. Wrighten's being engaged at the Theatre, and ſaid, ſhe had powers, and a good voice; but, he was of opinion, would never do for the ſtage. Here he propheſied ill, for Mrs. Wrighten is, at this day, an able performer, and a credit to the Theatre.

We next morning ſet off for Portſmouth, having ſent our maid in the ſtage

the

the day before; we ſtopped and lay at Guilford the firſt night, and reached Portſmouth the next evening, where we found all things prepared for our reception. Sir Thomas Mills called on us as ſoon as we arrived; he told us, the Admiral was on board the Barfleur, and that we muſt ſend our ſervant to him, to let him know we were arrived. We did ſo, and the Admiral returned his compliments, and ſaid, he would wait on us as ſoon as poſſible, which he did, and drank tea with us. Theſe gentlemen, the next morning, walked round the town with us, for the review was not to be till the next day: we were well dreſſed, and met here many of our friends, and were accoſted by all. Sir Thomas

was

was not a little proud of the company he was in. As we got into the barge to go on board, ſix ſailors in company bowed to the Admiral, and, one of them, with an oath, ſaid, the whole fleet could not ſhow ſo fine a ſight as that lady, meaning Mrs. Baddeley; and, another ſwore, if he was George the Third, ſhe ſhould be his queen. "Bravo, "Jack," ſaid Admiral Spry, and gave the fellow a guinea to drink her health. As ſoon as we were ſeated in the barge, the Admiral was ſaluted by a diſcharge of guns. When we came along ſide the Barfleur, the ſhip was manned to receive us, and the Captain, whom I knew from his childhood, was as happy to ſee us as can be expreſſed. We were con-

ducted into the Admiral's apartments, and chocolate, with various ſorts of cakes and preſerves were brought before us. We were then ſhewn the ſhip, and being very tall, and not ſtooping ſufficiently, I received a ſlight blow in paſſing the hammocks which hung over our heads. The Admiral immediately ordered them all down, and not to be hung up again in the day-time, till the review was over. I was not much hurt, but his orders were obeyed; in ten minutes not a hammock was to be ſeen. We ſtaid dinner, and the table was richly and elegantly ſerved, equal to any nobleman's I ever ſaw, except the Duke of Queenſberry's, which exceeds all deſcription for elegance, neatneſs,

neſs, ſplendor, and profuſion. Our dinner conſiſted of three courſes, and a deſert fit for the King, with ices, creams, jellies, ſyllabubs, pines, and fruit of all kinds, with the moſt coſtly wines. Mrs. Baddeley was ſo charmed with the reception and entertainment ſhe met with, that ſhe did not know how to expreſs herſelf. She ſung, and being aſked a ſecond time, ſung,

How little do the landſmen know,
What we poor ſailors feel;
When waves do mount, and winds do blow;
But we have hearts of ſteel.
No danger can affright us,
No enemy can flout;
We'll make the Monſieurs right us;
So, put the can about.

This ſong, and her manner of ſinging it, delighted the whole company. The Admiral conſidered it as a compliment paid him, and ordered his Secretary to remember and get it, that it might be ſung in memory of Mrs. Baddeley, when they were many leagues from thence. She was requeſted to ſing it again, and, with the variations ſhe threw in it, the emphaſis ſhe laid on particular words, and the action ſhe made uſe of throughout, ſhe put the whole company in raptures. After dinner, tea and coffee was ſerved in ſilver equipage. A band of muſic was now introduced, and many fine pieces they played; and, on our wiſhing to go on ſhore, the Admiral requeſted of Mrs. Baddeley one favour,

which

which was, before our departure, to ſing the ſeaman's ſong again, and upon deck, accompanied with the muſic; ſhe complied as before, with an additional flow of ſpirits, and the whole ſhip's crew joined in chorus. When ſhe had done, I requeſted her, on my part, to cloſe the whole with, *God ſave the King*. The Admiral was delighted, ſaid all his men ſhould join her, and it was ſung, and choruſed by the crew, with a thunder of applauſe from every part of the ſhip; and, I received the thanks of every one preſent. Every man, by the Admiral's order, drank his Majeſty's health, with three cheers. The ſhip was then manned again, every one to his ſtation. Sir Thomas Mills and the Admiral accom-

nied us on ſhore; and, we could do no leſs, than expreſs our gratitude at this hoſpitable and polite entertainment.—Admiral Spry told us, the King was to dine on board the Barfleur the next day, and of courſe he could not have the honour to attend us; but, the day after, he claimed our promiſe of being on board again, and recommended us to be in time the next day, to ſecure a good place on land, to ſee the review; then leaving us to the care of Sir Thomas Mills, he took his leave, ſaying, his attendance on board was neceſſary, to ſee all was in order for his Majeſty's reception. More than twenty of the nobility had called at our lodgings, and left their names. His Majeſty, we under-

underſtood was now come, for guns were firing, the bells were ringing, and the houſes were illuminated, and every demonſtration of joy ſhewn in all parts of town. We ordered our coach, and rode through it. After riding about an hour and a half about the town (Sir Thomas with us), and delighted with the gratitude of all ranks of people to his Majeſty, we returned home to ſupper; and Sir Thomas, promiſing to be with us early, took his leave and with-drew.

We ordered the carriage by eight o'clock in the morning, as Sir Thomas ſaid his Majeſty would be very early, looking about the fortifications, batteries, &c. before he went on board; we were

were up at ſix, and by eight were full-dreſſed for the day, at which hour Sir Thomas came. We rode about, accompanying his Majeſty in his circuit; where he was attended by thouſands of all ranks, who ſeemed to contend with each other in their praiſe and congratulations. We thought nothing wanting to complete the ſcene, but the preſence of her Majeſty, (who was not at Portſmouth upon this occaſion), to ſhare in the general joy of the thouſands who came here from all parts of the world. I do not mean to give my readers an account of this review, which has been retailed at large, in all the public prints; I ſhall only ſay, that the ſplendor of the ſight exceeded any deſcription of mine.

In

In the evening we went to the play, attended by Sir Thomas, and ſent to the Admiral to ſolicit his company. He returned word, that he would certainly be there, but he feared it would be late firſt. The houſe was crowded, and the piece performed was, *Romeo and Juliet*, with a Harlequin entertainment. Wroughton performed Romeo, and the play was tolerably well performed, till an interruption took place in the gallery. In that part of the play where Juliet exclaims, "Romeo, Romeo! Wherefore art thou Romeo?" "Look a-head my dear girl," ſays a ſailor above, "and you'll ſoon find him. "Was I near him, I'd kick him to hell, "for not coming to ſo ſweet a crea-

"ture."

"ture." This made the whole houſe laugh ſo immoderately, as to ſtop the performance for ſome time. The fellow went on, and others joined him. "That Roman," (as they called him) "will be ſoon fore and aft with the dear "girl, I'll warrant him?" When the entertainment began, in came the Admiral, apologizing for being ſo late, as he had but juſt left his ſhip. He told us he ſhould have many of his choiceſt friends with him the next day, who promiſed themſelves great pleaſure in our company. When Harlequin made his appearance, the ſailors began again. One ſaid, if that dapper-patched dog, who he believed ſtole his jacket from the dreſſing of the ſhips, had been with

Mr.

Mr. Roman, he would have paid him well with his rapper, he'd warrant. For the poor pretty girl's ſake, he wiſhed he'd come again. This ſet the houſe again in a roar, and when he ſaid the dog had ſtole his jacket from the ſhips ſilks, Lord Townſhend, who was preſent, laughed heartily, and wrote it down with a pencil. Sir Thomas and the Admiral ſupped with us.

The next morning we were up at ſix, and we dreſſed ourſelves to the greateſt advantage. Mrs. Baddeley put on all her jewels, and her rich diamond neck-lace, on which I had borrowed two hundred pounds, but ſoon after redeemed. Admiral Spry, and Sir Thomas Mills found

found us ready when they called. They conducted us on board, as before, and we were received in the ſame manner. During breakfaſt, a band of muſic played, and when breakfaſt was over, the ſignals were diſplayed, as when his Majeſty was preſent. We ſaw the whole with great pleaſure and eaſe to ourſelves, and in much greater perfection than the day before. The King was on board another ſhip; the day was a fine one, and the ſight beyond deſcription. During the ſpectacle, we were a little ſurprized by the violent ſcream of a young voice on board, but could not learn the occaſion, the attention of all preſent being fixed on the buſineſs of the day. Chocolate and cakes were handed round

to

to all the company, and the whole ended ſome little time before dinner; when the muſic ſtruck up, *God ſave the King*, and Mrs. Baddeley, and the whole ſhip's crew joined in chorus. When dinner was announced, we went into the cabin, to the number of eighteen. The firſt courſe conſiſted of twenty one diſhes, was ſerved up in plate; the reſt of the diſhes ſerved in beautiful china, beſides a deſert. Every thing in ſeaſon was before us; and there were ſix Admirals of the party. Admiral Spry was happy and merry, and when dinner was over, bad the muſic ſtrike up. Calling on Mrs. Baddeley for a ſentiment, ſhe took a glaſs of champaigne, and gave, "May "every engagement at ſea, be attended

"with the loſs of as few lives, as that "of *this* day; but may we be ever vic-"torious over the French!

This ſentiment pleaſed; it went round, and was written down by a gentleman preſent. I was then called upon for mine, and gave, "May there never be "greater cauſe for engagements, than "the cauſe of this day; and may all "belonging to his Majeſty's navy, enjoy "the bleſſing of peace!" This was alſo penned down. After every ſentiment we had a ſong. Admiral Spry ſung *Heart of Oak*, &c. and was choruſed. When it came to Mrs. Baddeley's turn to ſing, ſhe begged their choice, and was requeſted

requeſted to ſing, "*Where little fooliſh flut-*
"*tering thing,*" &c. from the *Padlock.*—
She did, and when ſhe came to that part,

Where little wanton would you be
Half ſo happy as with me?

a gentleman preſent, cried out aloud, "No where, by G—d," which made her and the reſt laugh ſo much, that ſhe could not go on for ſome time. "No "more of your declarations, Captain," ſaid the Admiral, "let's have the ſong." "Fleſh and blood," returned he, "*will* "ſpeak." This cauſed a freſh laugh; however, having finiſhed her ſong, a ſentiment was given, and ſhe called for another. After a little time was ſpent in ſinging, ſome propoſed cards, and

others a dance; and Mrs. Baddeley was asked to dance a minuet. But she, who was accomplished in every thing else, was but an indifferent dancer, and declining, I was applied to. The young gentleman who asked me, being from the North, I enquired whether he could dance a Scotch reel. He replied, "yes;" we therefore proposed to finish the minuet with a reel. My partner danced exceedingly well, and of course we made no bad figure.—All present were delighted. The Admiral then returned me thanks, saying, he was ashamed to intrude, but as he was sure a person who danced a reel so well, could also dance a hornpipe; requested, if I could, to oblige him with one. I did, and to

the tune of Nancy Dawſon, which charmed them all. From this we proceeded to country dances, and danced till tea-time. After tea we had more ſinging. In ſhort, our day was moſt agreeably ſpent; but juſt before we thought of going, a ſtory came out, that damped our ſpirits. "If you remember, "ladies," ſaid Captain Knight, (who was Captain of Admiral Spry's Ship,) "you "aſked in the time of the engagement, "what occaſioned a ſcream you heard: "I have juſt been told that melancholy "tale by the Surgeon. A pretty boy on "board belonging to one of the Lieute-"nants, had done ſome trifling thing "to offend his maſter; who running after "him, in order to chaſtiſe him, the poor

"boy, in order to escape, made an attempt "to jump a-cross the copper, in which, "meat for the crew was boiling, in hopes "to get behind it: but, in his hurry, he "fell into it, and was taken out with all "the flesh burnt from the soles of his "feet, and part of his body. Such a sight "has never been seen on board before. "In this miserable state, the poor lad was "wrapped in an oiled sheet, for his face "was equally scalded, and taken to the "Hospital, where he lived in torture till "within this half hour." This threw a cloud on all our merriment, and as it grew late, we begged leave to go a-shore. The barge was accordingly ordered, and the Admiral, apologizing to the company for leaving them, in order to

escort

eſcort the ladies and his friends on ſhore, accompanied us there and returned.

The next day Admiral Spry, and Sir Thomas Mills, breakfaſted with us, and after breakfaſt we walked round the town: in our walk we met with Captain Fawkner, with his brother Everard. He noticed us, and bowed, and after he had paſſed us, followed us up and down, gazing occaſionally at Mrs. Baddeley, and ſhe at him, but did not offer to join us. Finding this, I complained of being weary, and wiſhed to return home; however, as ſhe paſſed Captain Fawkner, ſhe ſaid aloud to the Admiral, that he might hear, "I have taken places "in the boxes to-night for us all; and

"we

"we will go to the play." After accompanying the Admiral to his boat, we returned home with Sir Thomas; but he, being engaged to dinner, took his leave for half an hour to dreſs; ſaying, he would attend us during the review, and to the play in the evening. Mrs. Baddeley was pleaſed at this; as it gave her an opportunity of ſeeing Captain Fawkner, who made his appearance as ſoon as Sir Thomas Mills had turned his back. He flew to her, kiſſed her hand with rapture, and ſaid, "Cannot I ſee you to-day?" She told him not, as the party ſhe came down with, would be with her the whole day, and accompany her to the play at night. Captain Fawkner ſaid he ſhould

be

be at the play, and took his leave. No ſooner had Sir Thomas left us to go to dinner, but Captain Fawkner, who certainly muſt have watched his going and coming, came to us, and dined with us. He ſolicited he might ſee her the next day, if it was but for ten minutes; and, ſhe promiſed to let him know, if poſſible, whether ſhe could ſee him. When they parted, they looked at each other like lovers, unwilling to ſeparate; and when I told her that I noticed it, ſhe ſaid, he was ſo good, ſo handſome, ſo ſweet, that an angel muſt love ſuch a man.

Before the Theatre was opened, the Admiral and Sir Thomas called, and took

took us the diſtance of five miles on the London road, to drink tea with a friend, whoſe family conſiſted of him, his lady, and three daughters, women grown. They preſſed us to ſtay the evening, but the play was our excuſe, and we came away, promiſing to dine with them in our way to town. Entering the box at the Theatre, we found Captain Fawkner. Mrs. Baddeley ſat down as near to him as ſhe could; but, it was not noticed by our company, as they had no ſuſpicion. Preſently came in Captain Fawkner's brother, who ſat down by him. Mrs. Baddeley's attention was engroſſed by him who ſat near her, and ſhe took no notice of the play. She propoſed on our return to ſet off for

London

London the day but one after, as ſhe deſigned ſhortly to go to Oxford to ſee Lord North inſtalled Chancellor. "How came "you," ſaid I, "to think of this; and "who is to be of your party?" She told me, Lord Palmerſton and Mr. Montagu, ſon of Lord Sandwich, who was then, with many others, to have a Doctor's degree. This being ſettled, Admiral Spry ſaid, he would acquaint his friend to-morrow morning, and would accompany us there the next day to dinner; and, that to-morrow, before dinner, he would attend us to Goſport, to ſhew us the place. In the morning, ſhe went and invited Captain Fawkner to breakfaſt, much againſt my inclination. She uſed various means, and tried ſeveral ways to

get

get me to leave them; but, being determined to the contrary, all her plans were ineffectual. At last the pencil went to work, and they were rude enough to write and answer each other before me; but, I took no notice of it. The time drew near now, when we expected Sir Thomas and the Admiral to call and accompany us to Gosport; but, she complained of a head-ach, and said she could not go. Accordingly she took her leave of Captain Fawkner, and we excused ourselves with the Admiral. This gave me an opportunity to prepare for our journey. Mrs. Baddeley continued ill till six, when I went to her, and she then, brought as it were to reflection, laughed, and threw her arms

arms round my neck, and thanked me for my conduct to her in the morning, in not leaving her alone with Mr. Fawkner.

One o'clock next day was the hour fixed for our leaving Portſmouth, in order to dine with Admiral Spry's friend. Mrs. Baddeley, however, was up and dreſſed by nine, when Captain Fawkner called upon her again, to enquire how ſhe did, and hoped he did not intrude; his pencil told him not: for he called on her by appointment yeſterday. The few hours ſhe had to ſpare, paſſed away in ſighs and looks; for, as I never left them, they had no opportunity of exchanging words, but in general con-

verſation. The coachman coming to the door, he took his leave. In a few minutes came our friends, and we ſet off to dinner, as engaged, and where we were elegantly entertained; and the whole family being muſical, we had a concert after it. When Mrs. Baddeley ſung, the old lady, who was unacquainted with her ſituation in life, was ſo charmed with it, that ſhe ſaid, it was a misfortune to all lovers of muſic, that ſhe was independent; or ſhe might otherwiſe make a fortune in London, at the Theatres. At this, we could ſcarce keep our countenances. They preſſed us to ſtay all night, the old lady, ſaying, ſhe was determined to have an angel with her one night (for ſo ſhe called

called Mrs. Baddeley), we ſtaid, and the next morning they perſwaded us to accompany them to ſeveral gentlemens ſeats in the neighbourhood, which they ſhould take a pleaſure, they ſaid, in ſhewing us. Saying, in my ride, that I was born in Weſtminſter, the old lady aſked me, if I knew any thing of the widow of Mr. Hughes, late ſlater to his Majeſty, and whether ſhe was living; telling me ſhe was a near relation of her's; that they were brought up at the ſame ſchool, and that ſhe was a very valuable woman. "Yes, Madam," ſaid I, "that lady is "living." "Before you go then," returned ſhe, "I will trouble you with a "line." "I will deliver it," ſaid I, "with pleaſure, for I have the honour

"to be one of that lady's daughters." At this, she caught me round the neck, shed tears of joy, and kissed me. On our return to her house, she made me, if possible, more welcome than before, and there was no quitting it. She made us stay with her four days, and promised on our departure to bring her family to town, and come and spend a week with us. During our stay, we had the Admiral and Sir Thomas Mills with us every day, and the Admiral was delighted, that he was so fortunate as to bring us together. We preserved our acquaintance with this lady till she died, which was some years after.

On

On our leaving this family, we made the beſt of our way to town, and reached it next morning at two o'clock. We there found letters and meſſages in plenty; but were too tired to read them, or hear more than that we muſt ſet out for Oxford in two days. Lord Palmerſton had called more than ten times, and was fearful we ſhould not return in time, and begged we would let him know as ſoon as we arrived.

We did not riſe the next day till noon, when we ſent to Lord Palmerſton, who came immediately; ſaid, we muſt ſend to Oxford to provide beds, for there was ſo much company going, that beds would be let for five guineas a

night; that Mrs. Sheridan was to ſing there, and that what we ſhould ſee, would be very different from the ſpectacle at Portſmouth, yet would equally entertain us; and, that we muſt ſet off the day but one after, with our own horſes, for all the horſes on the road were beſpoke; and if we did not ſend off that night, it would be ten to one, whether we ſhould get a bed. We, therefore, ſent off one of our ſervants expreſs, and gave him orders to procure us a lodging: his Lordſhip requeſted a corner in our carriage, and we could not refuſe him.

If there was any further connexion between Lord Palmerſton and Mrs. Bad-

Baddeley, than what I was acquainted with, it was between themſelves; ſhe never acquainted me with it: and, as ſhe was too communicative at times, for her own happineſs, I ſhould ſuppoſe ſhe would have acquainted me with this, as ſhe did with her other ſecrets. All I know is, that his Lordſhip's behaviour to her was always conſiſtent with the friend and gentleman; and his politeneſs at our houſe, did him, in my ſight, great honour. He was not, however, ſparing of his commendations of her; and, as he was then an unmarried man, he might be permitted to paſs his compliments as he thought proper.

Deter-

Determined to make the beſt appearance at Oxford, as we had done at Portſmouth, Mrs. Baddeley had ſome new cloaths made up for the occaſion; with a great deal of faſhionable millinery. She ſaid her diamond necklaces would make a beautiful band round her boſom; all ſhe wanted was a bow for her breaſt, and one for each ſleeve, which ſhe ſaid ſhe could hire of Mr. Bellas, the jeweller, in Pall-mall, for about fourteen pounds, and hoped I would approve of it. I oppoſed it with ſaying, that put the expence of it out of the queſtion, the imprudence ſhould be ſufficient to prevent her; that nature had been bountiful to her; that ſhe wanted no ſuch additional ornaments; and that ſhe would

would be as much if not more, admired without them. I told her that vanity and extravagance was pointed at more than ſhe thought of; that a leſs expenſive dreſs would be conſidered as the produce of her own profeſſional induſtry; but, decorated with diamonds, as ſhe propoſed, the world would only ſneer at her, and cry. "Look at Mrs. Baddeley! Take "notice of her diamonds! See what a "quantity ſhe has!" "And how did ſhe "get them?" ſays another. "They are "only the rewards of proſtitution." "And what then?" returns ſhe, angrily. "I care not for any of their remarks; "I *will* have the bows, and nothing "ſhall prevent it. My perſon is my "own, and I will do with it as I "pleaſe;

"pleaſe;" and, growing ſtill more enraged at the dread of a diſappointment, ſhe continued, "Nay, I will do more "than ever I have done yet; for I will "not be debarred from *ſeeing* who I "pleaſe, and *doing* with them what I "pleaſe—I will have twenty times the "quantity of diamonds I have."—At this, ſhe burſt out into tears of rage, and ſent her ſervant off for the diamonds ſhe wanted. I let her go on uninterrupted; and, when ſhe had finiſhed, ſhe ran out and bolted herſelf up in another room. In ſhort, I never ſaw her in ſuch a paſſion before, and, found from this, that I could only keep her within bounds, by ſoft-reaſoning, perſwaſion, and giving way to her folly in many things.

things. When Mr. Bellas came with the diamonds, and ſhe had agreed with him for the hire, ſhe brought them up, and laid them down before me, with a degree of triumph, ſaying, "Now I "have began, I am determined to go "on;—I will ſend for Mr. Fawkner, "and Mr. Storer, and every one I "think proper; and, I will do with "them as I pleaſe." This declared, and ſtudied oppoſition to every thing I thought right, I muſt own nettled me, and I replied, with firmneſs, "*Do*, "—ſend for them,—purſue your own "deſtruction;—but it muſt be alone, "and not with me, I moſt ſolemnly "aſſure you. I have long been a ſlave "to your folly, but I will now end it;

"ſee

" ſee then who you will, and act as you
" think proper; but, as I have too
" much regard for you to ſee it, I will
" ſtudy my own happineſs, and leave
" you, till time brings you to reflec-
" tion. Put none of *my* things up for
" Oxford, for I will not go; and as this
" houſe ſeems to ſuit you, I will let it
" to you; for, I am reſolved to leave
" you this day; determined you ſhall
" have it no longer in your power to
" treat me with ſuch unkindneſs, when
" my conduct and advice to you me-
" rits your beſt thanks and gratitude.
" I will go this inſtant to my mother's,
" where I will dine and I will ſleep at my
" ſiſter's; and, to-morrow, if you will
" come to a ſettlement, I will give you

" ſeven

"ſeven years to pay me what you owe
"me; and, to convince you, I do not
"part in enmity, I will accommodate
"you with any money you may now
"want; and any ſervice I can do you,
"at a diſtance, you may command."
At this, I took my hat to put it on;
when ſhe flew to me, took me faſt into
her arms, and cried, and ſobbed ſo
much, that it made my heart ach: ſhe
then fell on her knees, begged my par-
don, and declared, if I left her, ſhe
would ſtab herſelf the next minute.—I
told her, coolly, that I had made up
my mind upon the occaſion, and would
ever be her friend through life; but,
that her declarations had really ſhocked
me, and that I could not continue with

her under them, and begged ſhe would not hold me. She was in ſuch an agitation that alarmed me; ſaid, ſhe ſhould die, if I did not relieve her mind, by promiſing not to leave her. To quiet her, I, at laſt, ſaid, that I would not. She then bleſſed me a thouſand times, ſtill holding me in her arms; and, when I found her agitation a little over, I ſaid, "Now, if you pleaſe, we will "have a little ſerious converſation." She replied, "I can hear *nothing* till "you again promiſe not to leave me. "Do this; be friends; and I will ſub-"mit to any thing." I then promiſed I would not leave her for the preſent.— "That word *preſent*, my dear, dear "Steele," ſaid ſhe, "I do not like.—

"Give

"Give me your hand." I did. "Now," continued ſhe, "forgive my vile tem-
"per, and I will never more offend
"you. I know too well your good
"wiſhes for me, and therefore entreat
"you to paſs over in oblivion, what
"has happened to day; and I will never
"give you cauſe to complain of me
"again. There is not a ſervant in this
"houſe that is not wretched on account
"of this quarrel, for they value you
"much more than me; and, I am con-
"vinced, when they know we are
"friends, they will be as happy as be-
"fore." Thus was her fooliſh obſti-nacy, for the time, got the better of;—we kiſſed each other, and all was to be forgotten.

"We then began to pack up our things, for our journey: (this was in the year 1772), and when she put up her diamonds, she threw them into her box, with a, "Curse on these baubles!--I wish "the devil had them all before I saw "them!" I took no notice of this, but went on till we had finished; and gave orders for the carriage, &c. to be ready the next morning at six o'clock.

Lord Palmerston being with us at six, we set out together; reached Oxford in the evening, and found our servant had provided us a good lodging, at the expence of five guineas for one week. His Lordship promised to conduct us to the Theatre, the next day, but wished

before

before he left us, to speak to Mrs. Baddeley in private, having a secret to communicate, which respected her only, and which could be intrusted only to her private ear. I accordingly left the room, and his secret, as she afterwards told me, was only to request the grant of that favour, she had often so imprudently granted to others; and his behaviour, she said, was so ungentlemanlike, that she was sure the whole house must have known it, and she was fearful it would get all over Oxford. However, says she, as I promised his Lordship, upon his apologizing, that I would not acquaint you with it; I hope you will not notice it. I promised her, I would not, but that after we left Ox-

ford, I ſhould admit no more of his viſits. Till this tranſaction I entertained the higheſt opinion of his Lordſhip, and thought him a good man; but, I find I am ſubject to the weakneſs, common to my ſex; namely, to think better of mankind than they deſerve.

His Lordſhip attended us to the Theatre next morning; and procured us very good ſeats. It was preſently full; and all the company being full-dreſſed, it had a very ſplendid appearance. Lord Palmerſton now left us, to attend Lord North, who ſoon entered the Theatre robed, and in this dreſs ſo much reſembled the King, that, had they been together, few would have known them apart.

The

The ſame reaſon that I did not lay before my readers, the ceremonies, and all the particulars of the ſpectacle at Portſmouth, held good with reſpect to that at Oxford; that the whole has been already given to the public through the news-papers. All I ſhall obſerve is, that we were well entertained for three days, and that Lord North had as much attention and reſpect paid him, on the occaſion, by perſons of all ranks, as was ſhewn to his Majeſty in his viſit to Portſmouth; and his Lordſhip in return, expreſſed every mark of gratitude in his power.

An odd circumſtance occurred at the Theatre, that ſhews how neceſſary it is

to

to be guarded in our converſation in public, with perſons we are unacquainted with. When Mrs. Sheridan had ſung one of her beſt ſongs, a lady who ſat next me, aſked me whether I did not think ſhe ſung well; I replied, "wonderfully; that I had heard much "of her, but had never ſeen her before." She then ſaid, "Mrs. Sheridan "is the firſt Engliſh ſinger of the "age." I begged leave to differ with her in that, as I was partial to Mrs. Baddeley. At this inſtant, Lord Palmerſton, who was behind, had joined us, and who had heard our converſation, tapped me on the ſhoulder, and whiſpered, that the perſon I was talking to, was Mrs. Linley, Mrs. Sheridan's mother.

ther. I was in myself sorry for what I had said, but when I considered the vanity of the old lady, I thought she deserved the reply.

Lord Palmerston accompanied us, during our stay at Oxford, round the Colleges, and other places, except the last day, when his engagements would not permit him. On this last day, Mrs. Baddeley wished to see a certain library again. Whilst there, we saw several Oxonians; one of whom fixed his eyes on Mrs. Baddeley the whole time; she also was particularly struck with him, and said to me in a whisper, "Look, "Mrs. Steele, what a beauty of a man! "He is even handsomer than Captain "Fawkner!"

"Fawkner!" On her ſaying this, I was for going away, but ſhe would not, continuing to gaze at him, under a pretence of viewing the library. Preſently came in Mr. Montagu, a ſon of Lord Sandwich, who ſaid he had been hunting us theſe two hours, as he wiſhed to pay his reſpects to us, and ſhew us the Colleges. We walked round the place again, with Mr. Montagu, and this young Oxonian followed us every where, till we reached our lodgings, where Mr. Montagu left us with ſaying, he ſhould take the liberty of calling on us in London. When he was gone, Mrs. Baddeley obſerved, that of all the handſome men, ſhe ever ſaw in her life, this young Oxonian was the moſt beautiful. And

aſked

aſked me if I took notice of him. "Hang him," ſaid I, "I did not look "at him." "Not look at him!" returned ſhe, "I wiſh you had, for I "ſhall never forget him!" Preſently came a footman with a letter, requeſting leave to deliver it into Mrs. Baddeley's own hand. He was ordered up and delivering it, begged an anſwer. Her reply was, "If it requires an anſwer, I will "ſend one." This letter was from the Oxonian; and was as follows:

"Dear Madam,

"Pardon me for declaring I am "ſo much enamoured with your beauty, "that I know not how to expreſs my "heart farther, than that I am the moſt

"wretched

"wretched of all men on earth, sup-
"posing myself not worthy your no-
"tice; yet I am emboldened to ask
"permission, to shew you the College,
"the honourable gentleman omitted
"this day to do. If I am indulged in
"this request, I shall think it the hap-
"piest day of my life. Your answer by
"my servant, will be esteemed an ob-
"ligation, to one who subscribes him-
"self your obedient, humble servant.

"Joseph Gill.

"*To Mrs. Baddeley.*"

Though Mrs. Baddeley wished to send an answer, none was sent; for, if possible, she was more than happy at the receipt of his letter, and read it over

and

and over again.—"Burn his nonſenſe," ſaid I. Preſently came the ſervant again, with his maſter's compliments, begging the favour of an anſwer. I ſent word down, that the letter required none. He then ſaid that he had a note to leave; our ſervant brought it up. This letter was ſimilar to the other. Mrs. Baddeley ſaying ſhe muſt give ſome anſwer, ordered the ſervant to come up. He came, and ſhe ſaid, "Young man, make "my compliments to your maſter, and "tell him, I ſaw every part of the Col-"lege I wiſhed to ſee, the firſt day I "came to Oxford; but, notwithſtanding "this, I am much obliged to him for "his politeneſs on the occaſion." The ſervant bowed and went. "Well", ſaid

ſhe, to me, "I ſhall never hear any "more of him; ſo don't make yourſelf "uneaſy." I then propoſed going to town the next day; but ſhe wiſhed to ſee Blenheim, before ſhe went; and ſeeing this gentleman paſs by, as I found afterwards, ſhe would go out and buy ſome gloves. We were no ſooner in the ſhop, than in he comes to buy gloves alſo. He ſpoke to her, hoped ſhe was well, and reddened like fire; ſhe coloured likewiſe. He hoped, he ſaid, ſhe would pardon the liberty he took, in writing to her; not knowing ſhe had ſeen the College, till his ſervant brought him back an anſwer. When we left the ſhop, he handed us down the ſteps, and requeſted Mrs. Baddeley to indulge

indulge him with a minute or two's converſation; ſhe told him ſhe could not, that ſhe was near home, where he could not be admitted; and then aſked him how far it was to Blenheim; as ſhe deſigned going there the next day. After telling us, he reluctantly took his leave, ſighing.—When we returned to our lodgings, ſhe remarked, that he was a well-bred young gentleman, and was much handſomer when near than when at a diſtance; and that ſhe would, if ſhe dared, without offending me, have invited him to tea.—I told her I ſaw through her deſign in aſking how far it was to Blenheim, and would lay ten guineas he would be there. She aſſured me

ſhe

ſhe had no view in what ſhe aſked him, and was ſure he would not be there.

Lord Palmerſton called in the evening, and would have attended us to town; but, on ſaying we meant to go to Blenheim, he was ſorry it was out of his power to wait on us there, as buſineſs of conſequence called him away, and if ſhe was determined not to go, he would leave Oxford immediately. On aſking him whether it was not dangerous travelling by night, he ſaid no, he never carried much money with him, and therefore was regardleſs: then putting a piece of paper on the table, he ſaid, her horſes and ſervants would coſt her ſomething to town; and he begged he might leave that, to enable her men to pay the

the turnpikes. He then took his leave and departed. When he was gone, we looked at the paper, and found it a fifty pound bank-note. Mrs. Baddeley obſerved, that it was a poor preſent, but every little was of ſervice.

We went to Blenheim the next day, the ſeat of the Duke of Marlborough; and as I expected, we there met with Mr. Gill. He was well-dreſſed, and came up and paid his reſpects to us; hoped we would pardon the liberty he took in coming there, but as he heard us ſay we meant to ſee that place, he would not miſs the opportunity of making his bow to us, if he found us diſengaged; and, thank God, he had that happineſs.

pineſs. I ſaw ſhe was pleaſed; ſhe told him he was very polite, and he accompanied us round the place; and I took notice that ſhe prolonged the time of viewing it, as much as ſhe could. She aſked him, if there was any other place near there worth ſeeing; he told her Lord Abington had a ſeat within five miles; if ſhe would permit him, he would attend her there. Accordingly ſhe conſented, ſaid her ſervant might take his horſe, and he might, if he pleaſed, get into the coach; he was as happy at this, as a man could be; and ſhe ſeemed not leſs ſo. He began preſently to talk of love, but Mrs. Baddeley, firſt looking at *him*, and next at *me*, put a ſtop to it; though her eyes and his both talked to each

each other. This young gentleman, was about one or two and twenty years of age, ſenſible and clever; and it was not to be wondered at, that he ſhould be ſmitten with her beauty, which had already attracted hundreds.

When we reached this houſe we was upon the road to ſee, and which was a very long five miles to it; it was not worth viewing. However, ſhe did not think ſo, nor would have thought ſo, had it been a Cottage only, as it gave her more of his company. As ſoon as we ſaw the houſe, it was neceſſary to bait the horſes. The coachman was ordered to ſtop at the beſt inn he could find, and it was ſettled that we ſhould dine.

After

After dinner and coffee, we propoſed returning to Oxford; but, the coachman ſaid, the horſes were not well, for two of them would not eat their corn; and, that they ſhould be blooded. Mr. Gill went out to look at them, and was of the ſame opinion, and thought, if they were bled, and a warm maſh given them, they would be fit to travel the next day. This ſickneſs of the horſes, I have reaſon to believe, was all a pretence, and ſettled between Mr. Gill and the coachman; for, Mrs. Baddeley ſaid, when Mr. Gill went into the ſtable, "If I could get a divorce from Mr. "Baddeley, and this young man would "marry me, I would take him for life, "and live contented in any ſituation he

"could

" could place me in; ſo as you, my dear " Steele, would promiſe to be with " me." I told her, it would be the ſummit of my wiſhes to ſee her the wife of a man who would make her happy. At Mr. Gill's return, we found there was no getting further that night; and, therefore, determined to ſtay till next morning, and he continued with us. We paſſed the evening chearfully; Mrs. Baddeley ſung, and delighted him beyond meaſure, and the time ſlipped away faſt. At ſupper-time he took his leave, and promiſed to be with us the next morning at breakfaſt. When he was gone, ſhe ran on wildly of his pretty behaviour, his inſinuating addreſs, and his engaging manners; and, marry him

him she swore she would, if it was possible, and leave all mankind for him. She told me, that whilst I was writing to my husband, she had learned from him, that he was the second son of a gentleman at Reading, who had an independant fortune of one thousand pounds a year; that he was brought up for a clergyman, having a living promised him, which he could live happy on, with what his father could afford to give him; "So," continued she, "you "see how inquisitive I have been; and, "as he has declared that he loves me, "if I can any ways obtain a divorce, I "will marry him, for I love him beyond "description." "Observe, now," said I, "how childishly you act, and how

"easily

"eaſily you are to be led aſide." "No-
"thing," replied ſhe, "could make
"me ſwerve from him. If I married
"him I would be faithful to him; and,
"depend upon it, I will never ſuffer
"him to take a liberty with me, unleſs
"he *does* marry me. And what can
"I do better?" "Many things," re-
turned I, "as I have often repeated."—
"Yes," ſaid ſhe, "follow my profeſ-
"ſion.—I hate my profeſſion; but, had
"I this angel of a man, if he thought
"proper, I would purſue this profeſſion
"to help him." "Stuff," ſaid I,
"you are as changeable as the wind,
"and I am convinced, would be tired
"of him in a week." However, I fell
in with her, and thought, if her plan

could

could be brought about, it might not be a bad one; and, on my ſaying ſo, ſhe cried, "My dear Steele, if you can "aſſiſt me in this, God will bleſs you "for it, and ſo ſhall I; as I ſhould then "ſit down contented and happy for the "remainder of my life, and would deſ- "piſe every diſſipated man of faſhion; "for, with all their money, all their "ſplendor, and all their fancied hap- "pineſs, their life is a wretched one, "and their round of diſſipation a tire- "ſome labour. And as to one, in my "unfortunate ſituation, there is no liv- "ing with them, without following "their follies; and if one does not make "an appearance equal with them, they "think nothing of us; and, if one

does,

"*does*, it is called extravagance." She then begged I would not prevent her ſeeing Mr. Gill; for ſhe had no other view in it, than to get him for a huſband. I aſked her how ſhe could obtain a divorce; ſhe replied, By ſuing Mr. Baddeley for living in adultery. She had been told ſhe could do this, and ſhe would make the attempt.

In the morning, hearing a horſe come into the yard full ſpeed, ſhe jumped out of bed, and ſaid, ſhe was ſure it was Mr. Gill; and the chamber-maid entering the room ſhortly after, ſaid, the gentleman was come, and breakfaſt was ready. On our coming down, after

the proper compliments had paſſed, we enquired how our horſes were, and were told not much better, and that a farrier ſhould be ſent for. A farrier came, and ſaid, they had received a violent chill, and had caught cold, and if they were taken out of the warm ſtable that day, they would die; but, that the next day, with care, they might be able to proceed on their journey. I ſtill thought this was a ſcheme of Mr. Gill's, or indeed for the good of the houſe, and of courſe went into the ſtable myſelf; and, as far as I could judge, they were ill; for they trembled exceedingly: ſo, it was agreed then, to ſtay the event of the morrow. I called, however, for the bill, leſt the young gentleman (for I found

found he had ordered it) ſhould pay it. I told the landlady, if he aſked any thing about it, to ſay it was diſcharged by the ladies. Telling Mrs. Baddeley what I had done, ſhe thanked me, ſaying, ſhe would not ſuffer him to pay any thing. Mr. Gill preſently came in, and ſaid, "Ladies, I am ſo much "aſhamed of myſelf, that I ſcarce know "how to ſee you. I went juſt now to "pay the bill, and found you had done "it; pray oblige me, by permitting "me to return you the money." Mrs. Baddeley ſaid, "Not a word, Sir, "more of that, if you pleaſe; I conſi-"der you as a viſitor, and, it is a rule "with me, never to accept a favour of "this kind, even from my beſt friend."

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He bowed, and begged pardon, and hoped he had given no offence. We then put on our hats for a walk round the village, and ſeeing a poor man with a harp, Mrs. Baddeley ordered him to the inn; found he played well, and knew almoſt every ſong ſhe could ſing; of courſe the morning was ſpent delightfully, for ſhe ſung a variety, he accompanying her, and kept him upwards of two hours; then giving him five ſhillings, ſhe bad him go into the kitchen and eat ſomething. The poor man, at the ſight of the five ſhillings, cried with joy, ſaying, his wife was that day delivered of a child on the road, and he had it now in his power to give her ſome comfort. On being aſked how

far

far she was off, he said, three miles, describing the place, where a poor cottager had taken her in. On this, Mr. Gill and I gave him half a crown each; and, Mrs. Baddeley said, "Instead of "staying to eat your dinner, take a "bottle of brandy for your wife, and "make all the haste to her you can." The poor man fell on his knees and blessed us. Mrs. Baddeley, from the various impositions she had met with, doubted the truth of this man's story, and Mr. Gill being of the same way of thinking, said, if she chose to enquire further into it, her man might take his horse and go there; for, as I talked of going to see her, should the fellow have told a lie, I should have saved myself the

trouble of a journey. The coachman was diſpatched, and found the woman, who had been delivered that morning, laid with her infant on ſome clean ſtraw, with a few things only to cover her; he ſaid, ſhe was a pretty woman, looked very ill, and aſked his charity; that, he gave her two ſhillings, ſaying, his heart ached at the ſight; that he overtook her huſband on the road, walking as faſt as he could; but, that he paſſed him, and took no notice of him. On hearing this tale, we ſent for the miſtreſs of the houſe, told her the ſtory, and begged ſhe would inform us where we could get her a bed. She replied, that her hoſtler had a bed, a couple of blankets, and a rug, to diſpoſe of, and that a guinea would

would purchaſe them; and, as we were ſo well diſpoſed, ſhe would ſend her a pair of old ſheets. Hearing there was a bedſtead in the cottage, the bed was bought, and ſent off inſtantly in a cart. The landlady ſent one of her maids with it, and alſo the warming-pan, and ordered her to ſee the poor woman comfortably put to bed. Whilſt we were at dinner, the maid returned, telling us how happy we had made the whole family, and that a thouſand bleſſings were returned us; and, that our ſervant, unknown to us, had taken her a bottle of gin, which he paid for out of his own pocket. The miſtreſs ſaid, ſhe had looked out a few old things of a ſort, for the woman and her child, which ſhe would

would ſend her; that ſhe mentioned her ſituation and diſtreſs to ſome ladies in the houſe, who, among them, had given her to the amount of a guinea; and, that an out-rider to a tradeſman, in London, then in the kitchen, had paid her for two gallons of caudle, which ſhe was alſo to ſend her.

As we were going to tea, the poor harper returned, and began playing without the houſe, but in our hearing; and ſung, as he played, the following ſong.

It is not wealth, it is not birth,
Can value to the Soul convey:
Minds poſſeſs ſuperior wealth,
Which Time, nor Chance, can take away.
&c.

When

When he had done, he came in and returned us so many thanks, that rather distressed us, it being a blessing to a generous mind to do good unnoticed, and unrewarded, but by the actions done. He played a good while, and we bad him come again in the morning. When he went, he took home a variety of things which the mistress of the house had looked up for him; and Mrs. Baddeley gave her servant half a guinea as a reward for his humanity. Mr. Gill, in the evening, said, he had a little business to execute for his father, about four miles off, and hoped we would excuse him for an hour. He went, and his business was to see this poor woman; and order her husband to call on him

him at Oxford the next morning at ſix, for it was but five miles from this place, and he would give him ſome clothes; and, that when his wife was able to travel, to bring her to Oxford, and take a lodging for her; and he would, among his friends, provide for him, and find ſome employ for her; and, giving her a guinea, he left her. He was ſoon back, but took no notice to us where he had been. Thus was a humane act done, and, perhaps, a poor creature's life ſaved at a little expence; and how many ſuch like acts might be done, to ſerve our fellow-creatures, if ſo much money was not badly diſſipated!

Mrs.

Mrs. Baddeley was very chearful the whole day; ſaid, ſhe did not intend that Mr. Baddeley ſhould be long her maſter, for ſhe would ſoon get rid of him. "How?" ſaid Mr. Gill, "By a "piſtol?" "No," returned ſhe, "I "will ſue for a divorce." "That done," replied he, "was I poſſeſſed of ten "thouſand pounds a year, I would lay "it all at your feet;" ſaying, that he ſhould be happy to marry her, if ſhe was not poſſeſſed of a ſhilling. "But," continued he, "this is a hopeleſs wiſh; "for, as there are ſo many great men "your admirers, I ſhould ſtand but lit-"tle chance." Mrs. Baddeley ſmiled, and ſaid, ſhe thought him a good young man, and wiſhed him to continue ſo,

and

and to turn his thoughts to ſome woman more worthy of him. It now growing late, ſhe bad him think of returning to Oxford, as ſhe ſhould ſoon be going to bed. He then ordered his horſe, and took his leave, ſaying he would be with us again at nine to breakfaſt. When he was gone, ſhe was inceſſant in his praiſes; and ſaid, ſhe would move heaven and earth to get divorced, and marry him; for, ſhe found ſhe loved him more than ſhe could expreſs.

Morning came, and Mr. Gill at his appointed time. During breakfaſt the harper came again. Mrs. Baddeley went out to him, and on her return ſaid, there was a gentleman now in the yard, playing

playing on the harp; I went out and found it to be the poor man, very well clothed; and on my asking to whom he was obliged for them, he said the gentleman that was with us, and then told us what he had further done, as I have before related; we gave the man a guinea more, and sent him off.

Finding our horses able to travel, we went for Oxford; where, discharging our lodging, we continued our road for London, designing to stop at the house I took near Henley, to see my family who was then in it. Mr. Gill begged to accompany us, and we took him in the coach. We reached the place by dark, and continued there three days, and Mr.

Gill with us. I ſhall not ſay what happened under my roof, at this place, for I mean, ſome time or other, to write my own hiſtory; which has been full of adventures, though not of amours, and will entertain the public greatly. I ſhall not ſay, therefore, too much of myſelf here.

On our departure, from this place, Mr. Gill would have accompanied us to town; but Mrs. Baddeley objected to it, and ſaid, in her ſituation, it would be improper. He then requeſted leave to wait on us in town, which ſhe conſenting to, he took his leave, and we purſued our way to Salt-hill; where we met with Mr. John Damer. He inſiſted on our dining with him, which we agreed

agreed to, provided he would let us ſend the coach to Windſor to fetch the lady, at whoſe houſe we had all been, the laſt time we ſaw him. He conſented, and ſhe ſoon joined us. A very elegant and expenſive dinner we had; when over, ſhe preſſed us to go home with her, and ſleep there; and aſked Mr. Damer to be of the party; but he politely declined, as he was obliged, he ſaid, to go back to town on buſineſs; for he had left no orders with his clerks, and his ſhopmen would not know how to act without him. "I did not underſtand, ſir," ſaid ſhe, "that you was in buſineſs: "in what profeſſion pray?" He ſaid, he was a linen-draper. We looked grave.—She then requeſted his addreſs,

ſaying ſhe would be a cuſtomer to him. Pen and ink was accordingly called for, and he wrote down "George Number, "at St. Merry-aſk, linen-draper," ſaying, he ſhould be proud of her orders, and ſhe ſhould be well ſerved.—"Oh," ſays the lady, "I know St. Mary Axe very well." This paſt; and after tea, we took our leave of Mr. Damer and accompanied our friend to Windſor. In our way there, ſhe obſerved that linen-drapers muſt get a vaſt profit on their goods, to enable them to live in ſuch a ſtile, for ſhe was ſure the dinner did not coſt leſs than ten pounds. "Indeed," ſaid ſhe, "by "his manner and polite attention, I took "him for a nobleman, till he gave me "his directions.—Nay", continued ſhe,

"he

" he was extravagant, for though we " drank but two bottles of wine, I ſaw " ſix opened. This is the way inn-keep- " ers get rich!" We could no longer refrain from laughing, and told her that the gentleman had been joking with her; that he was the honourable John Damer, eldeſt ſon of Lord Milton.—" How ſtu- " pid", ſaid our friend, " muſt I have " been then! For I recollect well now, " when he was at our houſe, that you told " me he was a nobleman's ſon, and as to " his direction at St. Merry Aſk, I only " conceived him untaught, and that he " did not know how to ſpell, of courſe " took it for St. Mary Axe, near Cheap- " ſide. How will he laugh at my igno- " rance! I never was ſo taken in, in my

" life. How will you divert yourſelves at " my expence, when you meet him again! " No" ſaid I, " he will think no more " of it, it is his uſual fun." For, whenever he came to our houſe, not found us at home, and ſaw a ſtrange ſervant, he always left the name of ſome tradeſman, and ſaid he brought a bill for payment.

We ſlept that night at Windſor, and on our return to London, met with a parcel of Gipſies, who aſked to tell our fortune. We ſtopped the coach, and a woman who undertook it, ran on with a parcel of nonſenſe, that is not worth repeating; however, it made us laugh, and kept up our ſpirits, till we got home, where we heard Lord Melbourne had been

been twice, wondering what had become of us; Lord Palmerſton, once; Mr. Conway, three times; Mr. Montagu, Lord Clanbraſil, the Marquis of Carmarthen, the Duke of Northumberland's gentleman, Lord Pigot, Sir Thomas Mills, Admiral Spry, and many others.

Lord Melbourne was very inquiſitive, and ſeemed much hurt that Mrs. Baddeley could give no better account of her journey. Who went with her to Oxford? Where did ſhe go from Oxford? And, many other queſtions. She told his Lordſhip that ſhe ſpent her time with my family, in the neighbourhood of Henley and the like. "Well," ſaid he, "I muſt leave you again; for Sir

"Matthew

"Matthew Featherſtone, my Lady's "father, is ill, and at my houſe at "Brocket-hall, and I muſt go down to "him." He ſoon after left us, and Mrs. Baddeley was happy he was gone.

Having ſome money of Mrs. Baddeley's in my poſſeſſion, leſt ſhe ſhould be tempted by any new whim to lay it out improperly; I thought it beſt to pay it away, where it was owing, and propoſed ſettling with the builder, for the additions he had made to Hammerſmith houſe, which Mrs. Baddeley deſigned to pay. And when I looked over the bills, I was amazed; they came to ſeven hundred and fifty-nine pounds, eleven ſhillings, and eight-pence. My

ſurprize

ſurprize at this, made me fly to her to tell her of it. She received the intelligence with great unconcern; ſaid, we had a leaſe of it, and that it was now a good houſe, and I muſt ſet it down to the article of her extravagance: but, that I muſt not pay away the money I had, till ſhe got more; for, Lord Melbourne's expence about his houſe in Piccadilly, had occaſioned his not being ſo bountiful to her as he had been. "However," added ſhe, "if he does not "think of us ſoon, you muſt remind him." I replied, that I ſhould not, as he had not kept his word with me, though he had been bountiful to her. His Lordſhip promiſed to pay my rent, and had not done even that. Mrs. Baddeley ſaid, ſhe would

would pay the rent herſelf. I told her, in future, when ſhe wiſhed any thing from Lord Melbourne, the beſt way would be to write a line, and I would give it him. To this ſhe acquieſced, and I then told her, I would call in all the bills where any thing was owing, and try if we could not get them paid. Expences for houſe-keeping, and other daily expences, were paid weekly.

On calling in the bills, I found them as follow, and the whole to have been run up in the courſe of three years.

	£.	s.	d.
Miſs Brace, milliner, by ballance	120	0	0
Mrs. Bowen, ditto - -	218	18	10
Carried over	338	18	10

Brought

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over	338	18	10
Mrs. Titherſon, ditto - -	180	11	0
Mr. Price, ditto, by ballance of 700l.	230	0	0
Mr. King, mercer, by ballance of more than 1200l. - -	290	0	0
Mr. Titterſon, woollen-draper -	40	10	0
Mr. Burnell, ſilver-lace man -	30	10	0
Mr. Campbell, coach-maker -	200	19	0
Mr. Dyford, and Mr. Clark, ſhoe-makers - - -	20	14	0
Mr. Rolſon, hatter - -	29	10	0
Mr. Evans, linen-draper -	140	0	0
Mr. King, hoop-maker -	8	10	0
Mr. Tutt, trimming-broker -	18	12	0
Mr. Jefferey's, jeweller, by ballance	180	12	0
Mrs. Whitelock, mantua-maker -	10	14	0
Mrs. Humphries, hoſier and glover -	20	11	0
Perfumers bills - -	30	19	0
Builders bills - -	759	11	8
Carried over	2531	2	6

Brought

	£.	s.	d.
Brought over	2531	2	6
Stable rent	18	0	0
Cornfactor, in ballance	48	0	0
Hay and ſtraw	10	0	0
Farriers bills in ballance	10	0	0
Flowerift in ditto	18	0	0
China-man in ditto	10	10	0
Flambeaux for one year	20	12	0
	£. 2666	4	6

Theſe bills were only in ballance of more than eight thouſand pounds, incurred in the time, without any expences of houſe-keeping, furniture, and the principal part of her diamonds, wages, ſourheys, expences at public places, and horſes. Though Lord Melbourne did not enable me to pay the above, Mrs. Baddeley did not abate in her expences; but

but rather encreaſed them for ſome time, till a ſtop was put to it, which the reader will hereafter be informed of. My mind was very uneaſy on account of this great ſum owing; for, till I had called the bills together, I was not aware of their amount. On my ſhewing them to Mrs. Baddeley, ſhe laughed, and ſaid, they were only a milk-ſcore to Lord Melbourne; but, I told her, it was my opinion he would never pay them. "If "he won't," returned ſhe, "I will pay "them myſelf."

She now began to think of her divorce, and I adviſed her to conſult Mr. Dunning, late Lord Aſhburton. She went to his houſe, and had his opinion,

but he would take nothing from her. He told her he had doubts of her ſucceſs, for reaſons ſhe muſt excuſe his giving; but, there was a chance, if ſhe had a mind to try it; and, if ſhe would ſend an able attorney to him, he would direct him how to act, and give her all the aſſiſtance in his power. She accordingly applied to an attorney, ſaid, no money ſhould be wanting; and he promiſed to ſee Mr. Dunning, and to let her know the reſult.

In the evening, we went to the play, and Mr. Storer came into the box, and ſat by us the whole evening. What was the cauſe I know not, but ſhe was not ſo attentive to him as ſhe uſed to be,

left the houſe before the entertainment began; and, when he handed her to the carriage, and would have accompanied her home, ſhe pleaded an engagement, and parted with him. Going home, ſhe told me ſhe would have ſtaid the entertainment, but, finding the people of faſhion noticing Mr. Storer, ſhe thought it better to retire. On our return home, we found Baron Diede, the Daniſh ambaſſador, had called. This gentleman, among others, though I have not named him before, was one of Mrs. Baddeley's admirers. She received a letter this evening from Mr. Gill, ſaying, he was impatient to hear of her ſuing for a divorce, as he ſhould be frantic till it was obtained. "Now,"

ſaid ſhe, "I hate all mankind, for I "look round, and round, and find no "face like his."

Next morning her attorney waited on her, ſaid he had ſeen Mr. Dunning; that there was a probability of ſucceſs in the attempt, but he could not ſay more to *her* on the occaſion. She then left the room, and he told me, that Mr. Dunning was of opinion, as Mrs. Baddeley was ſo well known to have committed adultery herſelf, the court would not take that notice of her complaint, ſo as to avail her in ſuch a manner as to diſſolve her marriage; but, ſhould they not take her conduct into conſideration, ſhe would ſucceed; "there-

" therefore," ſaid he, " it depends on " chance. So, that if Mrs. Baddeley " makes the attempt, and her plea falls to " the ground, ſhe muſt not blame me." I promiſed to conſult her, and he was to call again the next day.

Baron Diede now called again, he was a polite little man, we ſaw him; and as he had ſome friends to dine with him next day, hoped we would do him the honour to be of the party. We accepted the invitation and he left us.

Not recollecting this gentleman, ſhe told me we had frequently met him at houſes where we dined, and he had been at our houſe more than once. " He has

"frequently been at our lodgings," ſaid ſhe, "when I lived with Mr. Hanger; "and he came once here when Mr. "Thurlow was with us, now Lord "Chancellor." "I recollect it now," ſaid I "well." "Yes," replied ſhe, "and "you muſt recollect that Mr. Thurlow "was with us an hour and a half, and "in all that time, did not exchange "twenty words. He was cried up as "a ſenſible man; but I could only "judge of his ſenſe by his ſilence. And "he could not be a great admirer of the "ladies." "Remember," ſaid I, "a "cloſe mouth makes a wiſe head. Be-"ſides, being introduced by Mr. Hanger "to his favourite lady, it would have "been forward and impertinent in him,

to

" to have engroſſed the converſation, or " have made his friend uneaſy by any " ſtudied attention to *you*; and I wiſh " men of rank would all follow his ex- " ample; there would not be then ſo ma- " ny trifling and treacherous characters."

Mrs. Baddeley was now applied to by a man, who had formerly been her ſervant, to procure him a protection from arreſt, from ſome one of the am- baſſadors. Wiſhing always to ſerve the unfortunate, ſhe cried out, "There is old " Count Haſlang will do it for me, (who was the Bavarian Miniſter.) " if I aſk " him; for he is full of his compliments " me, at all public places. I will write " a line to him." I encouraged her to this

this, and ſhe gave the man a letter, to take to him. He preſently returned and ſaid, the Count ſent for him up, and told him, he would, with pleaſure, comply with Mrs. Baddeley's requeſt, and he might call for it the next day; and, "pray friend," ſaid he, "make "my compliments to her, and tell her "I will wait on her as ſoon as poſſible." "Nay" ſaid the poor man, half wild with joy, "he will be here, I ſuppoſe, in a few "minutes, for his chariot and three foot-"men were waiting at the door. In "hopes of being here before him," ſaid he, "I ran over an old woman in Bond-"ſtreet, and threw down her barrow of "fruit in the ſtreet. She cried out, 'Stop 'thief, 'ſtop thief;' and I have been pur-

"ſued

"fued to your very door." We could not help laughing at the incident, but ſent our ſervant to find the woman, and gave her a couple of ſhillings to make her amends. She abuſed the poor man much, but our ſervant ſaying he was running for a midwife, and had ſent that money to make good her loſs; from curſes, ſhe proceeded to bleſſings, and he who was, in her opinion, a few minutes before, the vileſt dog, was now the beſt of men: ſo great a change in our way of thinking, will a little money, ſeaſonably given, occaſion.

Whilſt we were in converſation with this man, Count Haſlang's carriage ſtopped at the door. He came in and brought

brought the protection with him; for, as he protected ſo many, I believe he kept them ready written; and it required only to fill up the blanks to ſerve particular purpoſes. It muſt have been ſo, for he was with us almoſt as ſoon as the man. Preſenting the paper to Mrs. Baddeley, he told her he was happy it was in his power to oblige her, and he bleſſed the occaſion that gave him an opportunity of paying his reſpects to her; for he long wiſhed to ſay how much ſhe was in his eſteem. She, going to take her cat from the ſopha, that the Count might not ſit down on it, he took her by the hand, and begged the favour of a ſalute, which ſhe a little angrily refuſed, and in order to get her hand

hand from him, gave it a ſudden jerk, by which the Baron loſt his equilibrium, and his foot being entangled in the train of her ſacque, fell all along upon the floor, crying out he had hurt his back. I was ready to ſink with laughing; Mrs. Baddeley ran out of the parlour, and I was doing all in my power to get the old gentleman up. She returned and ſaid, ſhe had been to fetch her man to aſſiſt him; but ſhe had, in fact, been out of the room to laugh. As neither of us had ſtrength to lift him up, and he was unable to riſe of himſelf, we were obliged to call the maids. We at laſt got him into a chair, apologizing for the accident, and hoped he was not hurt. He ſaid a little on his back; we called

for

for ſome rum to bathe it, but he declined our good offices, and ſaid he would go home, and ſend for his doctor, and he had no doubt he ſhould ſoon get well; when he would do himſelf the honour of paying us a ſecond viſit. He then hobbled to his carriage, and ordered himſelf to be driven gently home. When he was gone, we fell into ſuch an immoderate fit of laughter, at the accident of the Baron, and his newly protected ſervant, whoſe hands and clothes were beſmeared with dirt, by his fall with the old woman, that our maids laughed as heartily as we did. The girls declared the Count had ſtays on; of courſe was more frightened than hurt. When the poor man had waſhed off the dirt

dirt, we ſent for him up, and gave him his protection, which he received with gratitude, and a look of heartfelt eaſe, that ſmoothed a brow, furrowed before with anxiety. "I will now" ſaid he, "go and ſhow my face at home, which "I have not been able to do, in a "week-day, for ſome time." "But, "don't run," ſaid I, "as you did here, "for, if you do more miſchief in your "way, you will get into jail in ſpite of "your protection."

We ſent ſome time after to Count Haſlang's, to enquire how he did, and found he was gone to bed; he returned his kind compliments, and ſaid he was

poorly. The favour, however, Mrs. Baddeley aſked of him, did not end here; for, as ſoon as he was able to go abroad, though we were conſtantly denied to him, he was with us every day for a month together. We now received the following letter from Lord Melbourne.

"My Love,

"I fear I cannot ſee you to-
"night. I am juſt come to town to
"attend Lady Melbourne to her fa-
"ther, who is come to town not well,
"and I fear it will make it *two* late to be
"able to call on my dear love; if I do
"not,

" not, I will be with you to-morrow, if
" I can, before you are up.

" Your's ever,

" Melbourne."

To Mrs. Baddeley.

According to our engagement, we dined with Baron Diede. The company conſiſted of all the foreign miniſters, and the late Lord Falmouth. When we ſat down to dinner, one of the gentlemen enquired where Count Haſlang was, that he was not of the party. The Baron replied, that he had that day received a letter from him, ſaying, he was confined to his bed, from a fall he had received, and had ſo much hurt his back, that he could not turn himſelf.

I dared not look at Mrs. Baddeley; certain, if I had, that we could not have avoided laughing. Lord Falmouth, ſaid, he had ſeen him that morning, and he was very ill, and on being aſked how he met with the accident, replied, his foot ſlipped in getting into his chariot. The dinner was ſplendid and elegant, and a band of ſoft muſic, in the next room, playing the whole time. When dinner was over, we retired to the muſic, and Mrs. Baddeley ſung many ſongs. Cards were then introduced, ſupper ſucceeded, and thus the evening cloſed. This meeting introduced Mrs. Baddeley to all the diplomatic body, who were afterwards our viſitants, and very polite to her. As

to

to Lord Falmouth, who was an admirer of the ladies, he was frequently at our houſe. In our way home, Mrs. Baddeley declared ſhe had bitten her cheeks till they were ſore, to prevent her from laughing. On our return, we found cards from many, from Sir Francis Molineux, and particularly the Duke of Mancheſter, the latter of whom was always ready to oblige Mrs. Baddeley in any thing ſhe aſked, and ſhe frequently applied to him in behalf of her friends, who wanted aſſiſtance in different ways; for, never in her life, did ſhe refuſe a good office to thoſe who ſolicited her, where it was in her power to do it. We ſent daily to enquire how Count Haſlang did, and was unhappy to find,

this fall had confined him to his houſe near three weeks.

Lord Melbourne returned from the country; came to ſee his dear love, and ſtaid two hours; ſaid to me, he ſuppoſed I was a bankrupt; that he had no money about him, but would return in the evening and bring me ſome. We now took an airing into Hyde-park, and there ſaw a pretty girl, well-dreſſed, ſitting on the graſs, near the ring. I bad Mrs. Baddeley take notice of her. She ſeemed to be about ſeventeen years of age, very unhappy, and to be the daughter of ſome reputable tradeſman. "Let us go out," ſaid Mrs. Baddeley, "and walk by her;" we did, and I aſked

her,

her, if ſhe was ill. "Yes, ladies," returned ſhe, "I am very ill, and wiſh myſelf "dead." "For what reaſon?" ſaid Mrs. Baddeley. She then burſt into tears, and cried bitterly. We ſat down on the graſs by her, and begged ſhe would tell us what made her unhappy, and we would be friends to her if we could; and ſhe might aſſure herſelf, if her tale required ſecrecy, it ſhould go no further. Our coach and ſervants were then at a diſtance. She told us her name was Harriot Brown, that ſhe was the daughter of an eminent linen-draper, in the city; that her father had three ſervant-men, one of whom ſhe unfortunately fell in love with; that he kept her company two

years

years, in a virtuous way, "For I "meant" ſaid ſhe, "to marry him. "This came to my father's ears, and "he got him preſſed and ſent to ſea; "and, on my ſaying I would follow "him, if I knew where to find him, he, "in a great paſſion, turned me out of "his houſe. I was ſo unhappy at this, "that I did not care what became of "me.—I have now been from my dear "father three days, and nothing but "water have I had; and this park has "been my refuge. At night I get to "that ſtable, and that I may not be "ſeen there, I am out before day-"break. I am ſo wretched, that I "have thought ſeveral times of putting "an end to my life; but, ſomething

"forbad

"forbad it." At the recital of this ſtory, our hearts yearned for her; and, we told her, if ſhe would go home with us, we would undertake to ſet all things to rights again. She replied, "Oh, "no, dear ladies, I am only fit to "wander life away in ſome deſart; for, "to me it is not worth the holding." We determined, however, to take her home with us, give her ſome refreſhment, put her into a comfortable bed, and not leave her till we could ſee her father; and, if he would not receive her, endeavour to do ſomething for her; and this we promiſed upon our words and honour: ſhe, therefore, agreed to go with us; the coach was called, and we got in. She was very thankful,

thankful, and ſaid, Providence ſurely had ſent us to her protection. Her diſtreſs brought tears into our own eyes; we made much of her, and when we reached home, we ordered a fire in the bed-chamber we deſigned for her, gave her ſome refreſhment, and attended her to bed, where we ſat down by her, and told her, we were certain her father muſt be diſtracted about her. She ſaid, her mother was at Margate, for the benefit of ſea-bathing; that, did ſhe know ſhe was turned out of doors, ſhe would not live a day; and then ſhe burſt into tears again, and we ſympathiſed with her. I begged Mrs. Baddeley to continue with her, and I would go to her father.

father. She ſaid, her father was a paſſionate man, and would probably affront me. I told her, I ſhould not mind that, provided I could bring about a reconciliation; but, that I perſwaded myſelf, he would be happy to ſee me, for the relief I ſhould bring him, in telling him ſhe was ſafe.

END OF THE THIRD VOLUME.

ERRATUM

In this Volume.

Page 48, last line, for *you must have pursued*, **read,** *you must pursue*.